

## Biography: John Ibbitson

John Ibbitson, political affairs columnist for the *Globe and Mail*, and author of *The Polite Revolution: Perfecting the Canadian Dream* (McLelland and Stewart, 2005), has lived numerous writing lives.



Born in the small Ontario town of Gravenhurst, he wrote his first published play, *Catalyst* (Simon and Pierre, 1975), for the local high school drama club, before leaving for Trinity College, University of Toronto, where he graduated in 1979 with an Honours B.A. in English. The remainder of his twenties was profitably spent—in creative, if not monetary, terms—writing plays, including *Mayonnaise* (Simon and Pierre, 1982), which premiered at Toronto’s Phoenix Theatre in 1981 and was subsequently produced across Canada and adapted for television by the CBC.

In his thirties, Ibbitson turned to writing young-adult novels, the best known of which is *1812: Jeremy’s War* (Maxwell MacMillan, 1991, republished by KidsCan Press, 2001), which was nominated for the 1992 Governor General’s Award for Children’s Literature. The book has been read by many thousands of students in Ontario schools and elsewhere, and is still in print.

In 1988, Ibbitson graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Masters degree in Journalism, and joined the *Ottawa Citizen* as a rather aged cub reporter. He worked as a reporter, columnist and Queen’s Park correspondent for Southam papers until 1999, when he joined the *Globe and Mail* as Queen’s Park columnist, subsequently serving as the paper’s Washington Bureau Chief and, since August 2002, as political affairs columnist, based in Ottawa. He has published two previous works of political analysis: *Promised Land: Inside the Mike Harris Revolution* (Prentice Hall, 1997) and *Loyal No More: Ontario’s Struggle for a Separate Destiny* (HarperCollins, 2001). His latest work, *The Polite Revolution*, examines the challenges and opportunities facing Canada at a time of political and cultural transformation.

Apart from writing, John Ibbitson’s interests include reading (mostly history and biography), music (mostly classical), fishing, going for long runs, and playing poker with reporters.

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