

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Alicia Sealey <atchp@the-wire.com>

To: Undisclosed list (T-Z) from Alicia Sealey <atchp@the-wire.com>

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2011 1:52:05 AM

Subject: Colin Rickards passes on

It is with the deepest regret that I pass along the following information.

Following is the story posted Friday, November 25th, 2011 on *The Caribbean Camera Newspaper* online edition:

Breaking News: Colin Rickards passes on

One of Toronto's best known voices and community journalists, Colin Rickards, passed away suddenly at his home in Toronto on Thursday night. Doctors said Rickards suffered a massive heart attack and died almost instantly.

A columnist with *The Caribbean Camera Newspaper* for the last 15 years, Rickards was best known for his series on "Caribbean People," and was considered Canada's leading authority on Caribbean history and affairs. He was once nominated for an Order of Canada. A former CBC radio contributor to the now defunct Radio Canada International, the British-born Rickards spent decades as a correspondent for numerous Caribbean newspapers for several major British dailies, before migrating to Canada, where he put his knowledge on the history on the region into a number of well-received books. Rickards was also well known in literary circles in Canada, and was a personal friend of many of the world's best known writers, including CLR James, VS Naipaul and Samuel Selvon.

He was often the "go-to" guy for information on the Caribbean for many of Canada's leading newspapers, television stations and radio stations. "Life goes on, but it is going to be difficult without him," said Caribbean Camera editor Raynier Maharaj. "Colin was an integral part of this newspaper, and he gave me a lot of ideas when we first started this paper in 1990. More than that, we've been friends for 22 years. I will miss his friendship and his professional advice. There is none in Canada better than Colin when coming to knowing the history and current affairs of the Caribbean."

Rickards leaves to mourn his wife Ida and son Damien. Funeral arrangements are still to be announced.

UPDATE as of Saturday, November 26th, 2011:

FUNERAL SERVICE:

Date: Thursday, December 1st, 2011

Venue: Leaside Presbyterian Church; 670 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto

Time: 3pm

In lieu of flowers: a donation may be made in his name to the Heart & Stroke Foundation (www.heartandstroke.ca)

"Let us come together to celebrate the achievements of the Caribbean's most eminent man of letters, columnist, historian, author, raconteur, confidante to everyone, and a man of impeccable eclectic knowledge," says Herman Silochan who will deliver Colin's eulogy. Rhoma Spencer said "he was my Google." Itah Sadu called him "a reference point."

My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Ida, and his son Damien, and to his legions of friends and fans around the world. RIP, my dear friend, mentor, Google, and reference point. You may be gone, but will never be forgotten. You have taught us all very well and your legacy will continue.

Sincerely,
Alicia Sealey

From: Mary Alcindor

Obituary

In Loving Memory of Mr. Colin William Rickards

(December 15th 1937 – November 24th 2011)

Husband Father Friend and Community Historian

COLIN WILLIAM RICKARDS (1937-2011) It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Colin William Rickards - Journalist, Author and Broadcaster. Loving Husband of Ida Rickards and Loving Father of Damian Rickards. He left us suddenly on Thursday November 24th. He was our mentor, our hero our rock and our strength. He will always be in our hearts forever. We will miss him. We will love him always. Memorial service will take place at Leaside Presbyterian Church On Thursday December 1st at 3:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Canadian Heart & Stroke Foundation.

Biography

Colin Rickards has worked as a journalist in England, the Caribbean and Canada. In the 1960s, in London, England, he was a Correspondent for newspapers in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, Antigua, British Honduras (Belize), and St. Lucia. Mr. Rickards traveled extensively in the Caribbean and Central America as a Foreign Correspondent for several British newspapers and the BBC World Service. He came to Canada in 1970 and for 14 years edited the Toronto-based Caribbean Business

News, and was Editor of The West Indies and Caribbean Year Book. He has worked for the shortwave Radio Canada International and is also the author of nine non-fiction books. Mr. Rickards was on the staff of Share for six years -- and a columnist for 10 -- and has been associated for the past eight years as an Editor and Writer with Pride News Magazine, and as a Writer/Feature Writer with the Jamaican Weekly Gleaner. He also writes a weekly column called "Caribbean People" for Caribbean Camera newspaper.

Post your condolence to the family at eTouch.ca
Memorial Service / Funeral: Thursday December 1st 2011 3:00PM
Leaside Presbyterian Church - 670 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, ON M4G 2K4

Saturday 26th November 2011

Hello Everyone,

There will be a funeral service for Colin Rickards on Thursday 1st December at Leaside Presbyterian Church, 670 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, at 3pm. Let us come together to celebrate the achievements of the Caribbean's most eminent man of letters, columnist, historian, author, raconteur, confidante to everyone, and a man of impeccable eclectic knowledge.

I will be giving the eulogy.

Sincerely,

Herman Silochan

My condolences to the family and he will be missed!

Respectfully,

Kirk Mark, B.A. (Hon.), M.Ed.

Coordinator

Race and Ethnic Relations Multiculturalism & Visiting Educational Delegations

Curriculum and Accountability Department

Toronto Catholic District School Board

80 Sheppard Avenue East,

Toronto, Ontario

M2N 6E8

From: "pwoods@rogers.com" <pwoods@rogers.com>

Condolences to the family! I often questioned Colin on some of his articles and on one occasion Colin responded by saying "once I have the truth on my side I do not need any allies". A thought which I have always carried with me since then/

Parker

From: Horace Thorne hrimaging@hotmail.com

Colin was a true CCC/Caribana supporter, very good reporter of Caribbean News, and a gentleman. To his family: My condolences. Journey well my Friend.

Horace R Thorne.

From: mxpollard@yahoo.

Thank you guys for this!

It is truly a shock to me. I was called by Cristabell Crichlow earlier this morning with this very sad news.

Definitely he will be missed, I spoke with him quite frequently, he always forward me a copy of his articles published in the Caribbean Camera and we often talk about all sorts of issues.

Just recently I sent around an article detailing beneficial properties in Tropical fruits vs. North American fruits; he sent me thank you note saying how good it was and suggested he would not mind taking a few things off for his own article.

To his family and friends my sincerest condolences, our prayers and thoughts are with you. Colin will really be missed not only for his articles in the various publications but definitely his presence within the CARIBANA family.

May his soul rest in peace.

(only last Saturday I attended a memorial service for Rolf Warner)

Monica Pollard

From: LESLIE FORBES Inforbes@rogers.com

Hi All:

It was a real shock to hear that Colin Rickards passed away. We are so vulnerable in today's world and we never can tell when our number will be called.

I will miss his articles that were the highlight of the Caribbean Camera for so long and his contribution was the staple that kept that paper constantly relevant to issues really Caribbean. From time to time I used to send him information which he would sometimes include in his articles.

To his family and relatives I wish to extend the condolences of my family and me. May his soul rest in peace!!

In sympathy,
Leslie Forbes.

From: Vere Palmer pvpalmer@yahoo.com

Folks,

This is really sad news that has caught me off guard. I will miss Colin and his articles in the Camera. My condolences to his family and the people he worked with at The Camera.

I communicated with Colin on various topics, especially issues concerning Caribana. I have a Colin folder that contains the secret emails between us. He encouraged me several years ago to publish a document, "Mihevic is a pain in the arse", which appeared in Camera. He was very honest and would often correct me when I was wrong, and for this reason I count him as a friend.

My deepest condolence goes to Colin's family, Friends, Media and Community Associates.

I shall miss my dearest and trusted friend, Colin. May his soul rest in peace.

Mary Alcindor

From: churchill.piggott@rogers.com [mailto:churchill.piggott@rogers.com]

Sent: November 26, 2011 7:29 AM

Subject: Sad news - death of Caribbean camera's Colin Rickards

On behalf of the original and authentic Caribana community we extend heartfelt condolences to Colin's family and our friends at Caribbean Camera on the passing of a media stalwart and Caribana loyalist

Rest In Peace dear humble Colin!!!

Blessings all

From: Eric Delfish edelfish@hotmail.com

Having read Vere's e-mail first, I was a bit puzzled about the "tribute", until I read the other e-mails about the passing. Colin will certainly be missed - always calm and approachable, tries to be fair and had the ability to see things from a different angle. Condolences to the family.

Eric Delfish

From: Jocelyn Phillips <socamas@hotmail.com>

For the last 6 years I would find Colin standing at the back of my church building (Holy Name Catholic church) at least twice a week,

he would be doing business at Pape and Danforth and would always stop at Gough Avenue to either light his cigarette or put it out.

We would have many chats about the Caribbean, the Caribana and his beautiful family.

His absence will truly be felt.

" Well done Good and Faithful Servant."

Peace Out

Jocelyn.

From: DAVID JACK <davidjack@rogers.com>

Hi Champ; this is a shock to me, for well over two decades I have been reading Colin Rickards column, his knowledge of writing I truly admired, researching skills will be truly missed, my condolences to his family and the people who worked at the Camera David.

From: elsworth james <elsworthjames@yahoo.com>

Hello everyone,

I was out of touch with cyber space,just got back to receive this sad news on the passing of this courageous journalist,Colin Rickards.My family heartfelt CONDOLENCES,goes out to his family,and may his journey to paradise,be in God's care.

Elsworth and Margaret James