



Ronald Arthur Rhodes

October 19, 2023

March 8, 1936 - October 19, 2023

On October 19, 2023, Ronald Arthur Rhodes, 87, of Etobicoke, Ontario, passed away peacefully at The Dorothy Ley Hospice with his beloved wife Chepa (Wang) at his side.

The eldest child of the late Arthur and Reta Rhodes (nee Gregg), Ron was an older brother to his late sister, Elaine Rhodes and brother, Gregg Rhodes.

Born in Hamilton, Ontario on March 8, 1936, Ron and his family moved to Burlington where he graduated from Burlington District High School in 1955. After achieving a degree in Business

Administration from the University of Western Ontario in 1959, Ron continued his studies,

earning a CA degree in 1964. While at Western, Ron considered it a great privilege to study

under Dean Jack Wettlaugher and Professor Don Thain.

After marrying his first wife, Robin Barrett, Ron became the proud dad of three children,

Benjamin Barrett, Emma Kate and Borden Cory. Ron was also a proud grandfather of three grandchildren, Aedan, Ava and Kate.

Ron's professional career began at the Ford Motor Company before accepting a position at The University Of Toronto's Hart House, student activities. As Administrator of Finance at the Hospital for Sick Children, Ron had the privilege of working with its CEO, John Law, for seven years.

After serving as Executive Vice President of the Newfoundland Liquor Board, Ron joined Selkirk

Communications as Vice President and Treasurer. Ron developed a keen interest in

subscription television and was hired to launch 'The Family Channel'. Upon completion of this

project, Ron and his business partner, Michael Ihnat, were successful in creating the Womans'

Television Network (W) after which Ron started his own investment company.

During his retirement years, Ron became interested in Aboriginal affairs. In honour of journalist

and friend, June Callwood, Ron established a fully funded scholarship in the Faculty of Law at

the University of Toronto. Further to this, Ron also created a scholarship fund for aboriginal

scholars at the University of Saskatchewan's Faculty of Law which was replaced with two fully

endowed award programs: The Arthur Rhodes Scholarship for Outstanding Graduates of the

Program for Legal Studies for Native Peoples and The Roger Carter Leadership Award for

Native People.

As a child during the war, Ron adopted Flying Officer George (Buss) Buerling, the most

accomplished Canadian fighter pilot of WWII, as his hero. Ron commissioned two life-sized bronze sculptures of his respected and lifelong hero: one mounted at The Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum and the other in The Aviation and Space Museum in Quebec. Ron became a passionate and committed patron of the Heritage Museum where he funded the restoration of several automotive vehicles. Ron considered the Heritage Museum amongst his favorite destinations - and the best kept secret in Ontario!

As an avid reader of Canadian writer and environmentalist, Farley Mowat, Ron also commissioned a life-sized bronze statue of Farley and his beloved dog, Chester. Both are mounted on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan, Farley's home province.

Ron further commissioned two life-sized bronze sculptures: 'Standing Man' mounted in the Sculpture Park of the Art Gallery of Guelph and 'Child' which is mounted in the University of Guelph Arboretum.

Ron and Chepa, his loving wife of twenty three years, enjoyed many happy summers at their Muskoka cottage, traveling the world, while sharing their enthusiasm for antiques and deep affection for their dogs Kelly, Sally, Tessy and Madeleine. Daily pictures and weekly FaceTime with Chepa's daughter, Raina, her husband, Jay Dunkelberger and their children, Roderick and

Rosalie, brought a special joy to Ron's life. When Chepa wasn't working hard in options trading, she eagerly joined Ron in his study - and love - of tango which took them to Argentina, Mexico, Paris and London.

Those who knew and loved Ron will miss his kindness, generosity, brilliance, sense of humour and predictions of the impending global financial collapse. Never a dull moment with Ronald Arthur Rhodes!

Post cremation, a private gathering of remembrance of Ron's life will take place at a future date.

Tribute Wall

DT

“ We are sorry to hear of Ron’s passing. Our condolences to the Family. We are away and unable to attend the Celebration of Life. We always enjoyed his hilarious stories which left us in tears.

Donna and John Taylor - October 16, 2024 at 10:33 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Chepa - December 02, 2023 at 05:16 PM

CH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Chepa - December 02, 2023 at 05:14 PM

RM

Hi Chepa, I just wanted to let you know I tried to contact Ron a couple months ago and I was saddened to learn that Ron passed away. We didn't get to know each other very well but I always enjoyed his company and his amazing wit and insight into almost every subject. I'll miss my friend.

All the best.

Ron

Ron Maurice - February 12, 2024 at 09:32 PM

MK

“ *Ron was my oldest cousin. We ended up being good freinds the last few years . Spent a lot of time talking to Ron . He always had great stories to tell about his adventures . Sorry for your loss . I will miss Ron Mark King*

Mark King - November 07, 2023 at 05:15 PM

CG

“ *craig gaye lit a candle in memory of Ronald Rhodes*



craig gaye - October 30, 2023 at 08:36 PM

KM

“ So sorry to hear of Ron’s illness and loss! His mom and my mom were sisters and I have many fond memories of visiting his mom as a child. His sister Elaine was inspirational in giving me the courage to push forward and go through medicine at McMaster University. I always remember Ron going through life with class. I had a health scare a few months ago and am working my way through it but found Rons kindness in sending flowers and checking up on me as heartwarming!
Reading his accomplishments shows his
I am sure his family are too.strength of character and success in life!
He was very kind in his thoughtfulness and gave me courage when I truly needed it! I am very sorry I did not make it to him to do the same. His parents would be so proud of him!
I am sure his family is too. I am sure you will miss him.
It has meant a lot to hear his kind words as I have enjoyed our contacts over the years and am proud of the legacy our extended family have accomplished.
I am so sorry for your loss!
Love
Kim McCallum nee King with our mutual
Nee Gregg from our moms family xo

Kim McCallum - October 29, 2023 at 07:29 PM

PH

“ RIP Ron: I had the pleasure of knowing Ron in Highschool but he was so smart, he flew through the five years and went to Western on a Scholarship, from Stelco, I believe. We renewed contact through the Hamilton office of Deloitte as he sailed through the CA course. Always ahead of everything that most mortals could barely spell let alone understand. It was an honour to be among his friends. Paul Hines

paul hines - October 29, 2023 at 11:49 AM