

## Peggy & Mike Oldfield

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**From:** Peggy & Mike Oldfield [pegomik@telus.net](mailto:pegomik@telus.net)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2017 5:00 PM  
**To:** Undisclosed Recipients  
**Subject:** Sad News – Tony Wade, Producer/Director/Writer/Executive Producer including CBC Vancouver’s “Pacific Report”.

TO ALL CBC 20 YEAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON REGION CBC PENSIONERS’ NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, COLLEAGUES PAST AND PRESENT

Hello, everyone.

It is with deep sadness that I bring you the news that our colleague and friend Tony Wade passed away in St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, England on March 31, 2017, having fought a brave battle with cancer. He was just 68 years of age.

Tony’s wife Sidonie posted the following message on his Facebook page:

“To all the people who have crossed paths with Tony or travelled with him through life, his final journey will be on Wednesday 12 April 2017 at 9:30 a.m. British Summer Time. In accordance with his wishes he will be cremated with no fuss or ceremony.

As his friends and colleagues are spread across the world, encompassing many time zones, you may wish to take a moment when your time zone corresponds with the one above to pause and remember the good times and adventures and wish him well on his final journey.

For all the kind words and condolences received at this time, thank you.

If you wish to contribute to a worthy cause in Tony’s memory, the hospice which cared for him is a wonderful facility without which the end would not have been as peaceful. Please consider St. Michael’s Hospice, 25 Upper Maze Hill, St. Leonards on Sea TL38 0LB, Great Britain.

Sidonie”



*Tony Wade in front of bus shelter ad for “Pacific Report”  
CBC Vancouver. (Photo courtesy Tony Wade)*



*Tony at CHBC Kelowna in 1967*

(Photo courtesy Tony Wade)

Tony was born in England on August 30, 1948, attended Wellington College in Berkshire, England and St. Johns School, Episkopi, Cyprus. He embarked on his television career in 1967 in Canada, becoming a Producer/Director/Writer and Executive Producer and working for many major networks including CBC, CTV, VTV, Global-TV, ABC, PBS, Access-TV, AIT, APTN and Crawford Productions (Australia), spanning productions in music, drama, sports and current affairs as well as numerous topics under the documentary umbrella. Tony was a Producer with the current affairs' series *Pacific Report* at CBC Vancouver starting in 1980 and between 1984 and 1990 was Executive Producer of *Pacific Report* and its successor *Down To Earth* as well as the *Corelli* series hosted by Journalist Ray Corelli. He branched out to undertake freelance assignments. He was a partner in TV production companies including Kicking Horse Productions of which he was a founding member.



Among the many awards presented to Tony over the years were two at Can Pro '99 – 'Best Documentary' and 'Best of the Festival' for *The Last Streetfighter*, *The History of the Georgia Strait* (VTV and CTV Network) and a Certificate of Merit at The Webster Awards for the same production; Honourable Mention for *Red Dog Mine* (CBC Television, Vancouver) at the Canadian Mining and Metallurgy Association Awards; the Anik Award for 'Best Information Series – *Pacific Report*' (CBC Television, Vancouver) for the documentary *Bill Reid – Mythical Icons*; a Bronze Medal, 'Best Children's Special' for *10 Carrot Diamond* (Philmer Productions/CBC Television, Vancouver) from the New York Festival Awards; the Anik Award for *Glitter or Gold?* (*Pacific Report*, CBC Television, Vancouver) in the category of 'Best Information Series'; the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual B'nai Brith Media Human Rights Award for *Apprehensions*, *Aboriginal Kids Should be in*

*Aboriginal Homes – Pacific Report* (CBC Television, Vancouver); and the AMTEC Award of Merit for *Barry Broadfoot's Pioneer Years* (ACCESS TV, Edmonton).

Tony moved to St Leonards-on-Sea near Hastings, Sussex, England and with forty years in the business, diversified into internet video production and distribution while continuing to produce/direct/edit and write for television. In 'retirement', he continued to operate his company Yesterday Studio from home, enjoyed travelling with Sidonie and commenced writing a thriller entitled *Pockets of Money*, to be published as an e-book.



*Sidonie and Tony on holiday in Greece in 2012*  
(Photos courtesy Tony Wade)

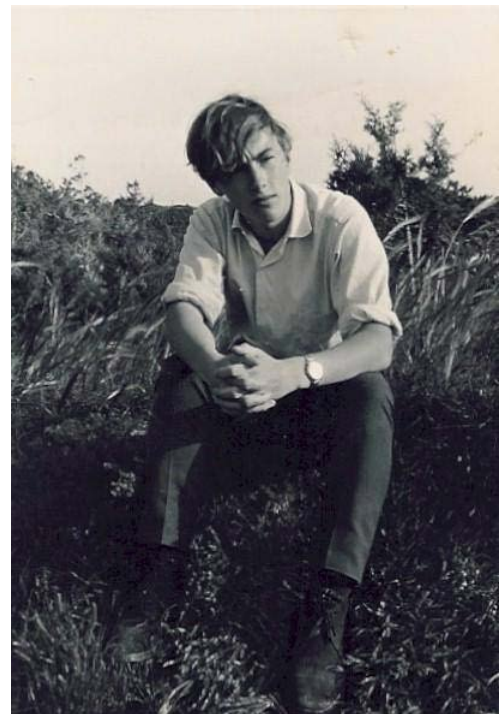
Tony is survived by his wife Sidonie, children Markus, Adam, Christopher and Hayley, step-daughter Sara, grandchildren Sadie and Mason, sister Stephanie and her family.

Tony's long-time friend from Cyprus days, Ian Mitchell, flew to England from Montreal in the week prior to Tony's death to see him and Tony was very touched that Ian did so. On the day of Tony's cremation, Ian posted the following tribute and photo on Facebook:

"On Saturday April the 1st, the Horse and Groom's ordinary stock price fell sharply on the news of Tony Wade's passing. The landlord and senior bar staff called an emergency meeting to brace for the impact of the anticipated drop in sales. However, in order to maintain the flourishing tourist trade, they insisted on keeping the helmet.

Anthony R.C. Wade. The man. The myth. The legend. Now, his work here is done. He received a call, an offer that cannot be refused, for an appointment from which he will not be returning. However, this transfer comes with a huge sign-on bonus and a reunion with family and friends that he has not seen in a long time (BTW please say 'Hi' to Ken, Fred and Roy who will be there to welcome you).

His new mission takes him to a wonderful place where he will be producing documentaries, listening to 60's bands and playing the drums as loud as he wants. Music, laughter and love are guaranteed. Food and drink are sublime and he will never gain an ounce or a headache ever again



*Tony in Cyprus*

His spirit left us on March 31st. Today it is the turn of his earthly remains. But he will not be gone. As long as we are alive to remember him, he will live in us. Yes, it's a cliché, but it's true..... Au revoir my friend, until we meet again. Stay as you always were: windswept and interesting....”

The list of those to whom Tony was a close friend as well as a former colleague is a very long one.

Here are just a few memories and tributes (with special appreciation to Wendy Bancroft and Marke Slipp for gathering the majority of them) which come from the many working connections in Tony's life:

**Dan Noon, Producer, CBC Vancouver.**

“Tony was a great Producer, Director and Writer. He always connected with people with his unique sense of humour and his genuine interest in what people had to say, both in front and behind the camera. He enriched all of our lives and I am very proud to say he was my friend.”

**Peter McNelly, Executive Producer, CBC Vancouver “Pacific Report.”**

“Tony was charming, talented, tough and sweet. He and I shared many a carafe of bad white wine together during those fine old days at Pacific Report. Sigh...”

**Doug Paulson (Co-host, ACCESS Alberta “Come Alive”)**

“I recall sitting with Tony on more than a few occasions sharing the laughter at the Edmonton Media Club.”

**Jim Tustian (Cameraman, ACCESS Alberta, “Come Alive”)**

Tony has been almost a segment title in my career story... I remember one time Tony was directing when we shot a drunk driving bit. We all went to the Catacombs lounge and got pissed then took off to do the show... Got a good sequence! it was quite a trip. (Apparently they were the drunk drivers)

**Grace Gilroy (Production Coordinator, Kicking Horse Films, Edmonton)**

Does anyone remember Tony with the blue Bic pen that was always chewed daily? One a week guaranteed. We always had to keep a big stash in the office.

**Garrell Clark (Soundman, Kicking Horse Films, Edmonton)**

Tony had many talents. He was a farmer and scuba instructor. While resting in Fiji, after a grueling shoot in Australia, Tony asked if I would like to scuba dive in the coral reefs surrounding Mana Island. Lacking a certificate, I declined, with great disappointment. It turned out Tony was a certified instructor. He got me gear and taught me to dive... Tony's green thumb also supplied the crucial ingredients for the "brownies" consumed at the Film Freakers Ball. His farming skills at the Stony Plain acreage provided a powerful ingredient for the baker whose name, for legal reasons, I must withhold.

**David Banigan (Film Editor, Kicking Horse Films, Edmonton)**

Tony Wade made me laugh:

Answering the phone, "I told you never to call me here."

Restaurant review, "It was really expensive, but the food was terrible."

**Marke Slipp (Film Editor, Pegasus Films, Edmonton)**

Tony will be missed by many. He was a sweet guy with a talent for getting the people he work with to give their best. And always up to share a quaff. A man of the times whom I expect was difficult to be married to. (Thank goodness he found Sidonie says Wendy)

**Peter Roberts, a writer who worked with Tony in the private film industry in Edmonton,** offered a story too long to be included here but suffice to say it involved travel to England, drinking, electric cigarettes, more drinking, crazy times and loyal friends. "I was not one of Tony's lifelong friends, more a long-distance friend, but you never would have known it from the way he treated me, and everyone else. Tony was one of the good guys.

Since Tony left Canada to move back to England, most of us maintained a friendship with him largely through email and Facebook. Somehow it worked. Somehow you always felt that Tony was just at the end of the computer.

**Wendy Bancroft (Co-Host, ACCESS Alberta, "Come Alive," and co-host, CBC Vancouver "Pacific Report.")**

I knew the talented Tony, the Tony that drank and the Tony that could be crass. I'm going to talk about good guy Tony—a story from the Pacific Report days. We had started this annual event called a "squidgy" (no idea why) out at a cabin on Pender Island. One year the squidgy happened not long after Tony and I had done a story featuring a fellow with cerebral palsy, Rick Watson. Rick was an activist for the disability community, and a great guy. Come the squidgy, Tony invited Rick. Getting Rick and his wheelchair to the island and down the rocky hill to the cabin was no mean feat. Rick had to be fed, although he seemed able to handle drinking so tipped back with the rest of us, albeit with a straw. Getting him to the outhouse was a bigger challenge. We all pitched in that weekend, but Tony was in charge. Yup. He could be a really good guy.

**Rick Chisholm (Director, ACCESS Alberta "Come Alive" and CBC Vancouver "Pacific Report).**

I last saw Tony in a pub (of course) in London, right after the London Olympics. We reminisced about our lives, careers, funny moments, Bobby, funny moments, etc. We hadn't seen each other for awhile, but we picked it up where we had left it off. There was his simple laugh, which I always loved. There was another beer. There was never a lull in the conversation and if there was it was only to fit in the sigh, "Ya, that was good, that was funny. It's good to see you." And it was. We both left feeling really good. I know we did.

Tony, from all of us in all your lives, "It's been a splice!"



*Tony in 1984*  
(Photo courtesy Tony Wade)

A wonderful tribute to Tony is being published by the Georgia Straight newspaper, written by Charlie Smith. It is available on-line at <http://www.straight.com/news/893031/former-cbc-broadcast-journalism-trailblazer-tony-wade-dies> where links have been provided to watch videos of some of Tony's work and will be in the April 20, 2017 print edition. I am pleased to reprint it here with notation of the aforementioned video links highlighted within a **coloured background** (you will have to go to the on-line version to access these links):



[Straight Talk](#)

## **Former CBC broadcast journalism trailblazer Tony Wade dies**

by [Charlie Smith](#) on April 18th, 2017 at 7:52 PM



- Tony Wade recently died at the age of 68, but during his life he completed three documentaries about the *Georgia Straight* and was prepared to do a fourth.

One of B.C.'s most influential broadcast journalists of the 1970s and 1980s has passed away in St Leonards-on-Sea, England, after suffering from throat cancer.

Tony Wade was the fiery and iconoclastic executive producer of CBC TV's *Pacific Report*, a pioneering newsmagazine program that wasn't afraid to challenge conventional wisdom. He was 68.

In 1980, he and *Pacific Report* journalist Wendy Strazdine created a 16-minute documentary called "Apprehensions", which shone a light on the seizure of indigenous children and their placement with white families.

It led to new laws around the fostering of First Nations kids and won the B'nai Brith Media Human Rights Award.

In 1987 Wade produced a landmark 25-minute documentary for *Pacific Report* on Michael J. Fox, then a major television star on *Family Ties*.

[Video of Michael J Fox, documentary 1987 .m4v](#)

[Video: Watch the documentary Tony Wade produced of Michael J. Fox at the height of the actor's career.](#)

He took viewers behind the scenes with Fox, showing him driving to work in his black Ferrari, interacting with his costars on set, and speaking frankly about his life as an actor. Much of the program was filmed in Los Angeles as Fox was working days on *Family Ties* and at night filming *Back to the Future*.



Wade's style was to let the subjects reveal their stories rather than having journalists intrude too heavily in the storytelling.

This process was on display in another of his memorable *Pacific Report* documentaries, "The Crusoe of Lonesome Lake", which told the story of B.C. homesteader and environmentalist Ralph Edwards, as well as another program on the punk band D.O.A.

### Video of D.O.A Punk Band 1989

Joe Keithley is now running for the B.C. Green party, but back in 1989 he was a young dad as well as the frontman for D.O.A.

In 1996, Wade created a pilot for CBC TV called *The Criminal Mind*, which focused on psychopaths in prison. The show was ahead of its time but wasn't picked up by the network.

Former *Pacific Report* executive producer Peter McNelly described Wade as "charming, talented, tough, and sweet" in a tribute that appeared in a newsletter shared by current and former CBC staffers.

Another former CBC colleague, Dan Noon called Wade a "great producer, director, and writer".

"He always connected with people with his unique sense of humour and his genuine interest in what people had to say, both in front and behind the camera," Noon added. "He enriched all of our lives and I am very proud to say he was my friend."

Yet another former colleague, film editor David Banigan, said Wade made him laugh. Banigan cited one of Wade's restaurant reviews in which he declared: "It was really expensive but the food was terrible."

In the predigital era, journalists like Tony Wade used to cut their own tape.

Although Wade was admired for his eye for creating compelling current-affairs programming, he was also a great mentor, helping many journalists learn the principles of long-form journalism on television.

He also chronicled the evolution of the *Georgia Straight* in three different documentaries.

In the first, on *Pacific Report* in 1982, the youthful-looking publisher, Dan McLeod, declared that he was no longer interested in confronting the authorities and didn't intend on returning to court.

### Video of The Georgia Straight Doc 1982

Tony Wade produced a 14-minute documentary about the *Georgia Straight* in 1982

This was in reference to the late 1960s, when the *Straight* was repeatedly harassed by police and politicians.

For a six-week period in its first year, the paper was kept off the streets after the city revoked its business licence.

### Video of The Georgia Straight Doc 1987

Check out Tony Wade's amusing documentary of *Georgia Straight* at 20, as seen on *Pacific Report*.

The second documentary appeared on *Pacific Report* in 1987 to coincide with the *Straight*'s 20th anniversary and publication of its 1,000th issue. It revealed how the paper's switch to arts and entertainment helped it survive financially in the 1980s and included film footage from the paper's controversial early days.

"The *Straight* has outlasted [combative former Vancouver mayor] Tom Campbell and the hippies and is soon to outlast Ronald Reagan and the yuppies," McLeod said in the documentary.

### Video of "The Last Streetfighter", The History of the Georgia Straight newspaper

Video: Watch *The Last Streetfighter: The History of the Georgia Straight* newspaper.

Wade's third documentary about the *Straight* was far more ambitious. Coproduced and written by *Straight* alumnus Tom Crighton, *The Last Streetfighter: The History of the Georgia Straight* was a 47-minute look at the newspaper on its 30th anniversary. It included an interview with humanitarian Bob Geldof, who was the paper's music editor in the mid-1970s, and it highlighted the connections between the *Straight* and the founders and early members of Greenpeace.

### Video of Bob Geldof 1997 Uncut Interview

Watch Tony Wade's unedited interview with Bob Geldof recalling his experiences working at the *Georgia Straight* in the 1970s. It was done the day after his ex-wife Paula Yates's death from a heroin overdose.

*The Last Streetfighter* won two CANPRO Canadian television awards as well as a certificate of merit from the Jack Webster Foundation.

Wade also won two Anik Awards, a New York Film and Television Festival bronze medal, and an AMTEC Award of Merit for documentaries about artist Bill Reid, children's entertainer Charlotte Diamond, and writer and historian Barry Broadfoot, respectively.

### Video of "10 CARROT DIAMOND"; Charlotte Diamond. 1987

Tony Wade's *10 Carrot Diamond*, about entertainer Charlotte Diamond, was another award winner.

McLeod said that Wade and Crighton finished a treatment to do a one-hour documentary on the *Straight*'s 50th anniversary this year but, sadly, Crighton suffered a relapse of his own throat cancer and was unable to continue.

"I think, one way or another, Tony would have gotten the project done even without Tom's help if not for his own cancer recurring," McLeod said. "In August, he wrote me that the lymph nodes in his neck were swollen and cancerous. Soon he had the diagnosis: 'small-cell lung cancer'."

Wade is survived by his wife, Sidonie, his children Markus, Adam, Christopher, and Hayley, his stepdaughter Sara, and his grandchildren Sadie and Mason.

<http://www.straight.com/news/893031/former-cbc-broadcast-journalism-trailblazer-tony-wade-dies>

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Regards,

Peggy