

Expression of Condolence for John Gilbert Peck (Pluggy Satchmo) by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle

Seconded by: Councillor Josh Matlow

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of John Gilbert Peck (Pluggy Satchmo) on May 17, 2022.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Pluggy started out his career as a dancer working alongside Beryl McGar and Sparky. The group joined forces in the mid-1950s touring the north coast with Pluggy performing as both a singer and dancer. During this time, Pluggy won a popular talent contest and began recording with Owen Gray which eventually led to the release of an album, 'Battle of the Giants Round 1' in 1983.

Pluggy settled in Canada in the 1960s and continued to dance with McGar, the duo becoming known for their extraordinary dance moves. He signed a recording contract with TP Records and released a tribute album in honour of the great Louis Armstrong. Armstrong was an early influence who inspired Pluggy and his pseudonym. He skyrocketed to great success and became known for his reggae hits and worked with notable musicians such as Lord Tanamo (vocalist with the Skatalites) and Norma King.

Pluggy was influential within the local reggae music scene and is celebrated in Toronto's Reggae Lane mural, where he is included alongside other trailblazers of the local Jamaican music scene. Pluggy's contributions were recognized in 2000 when he received an award of merit at the 16th Annual Canadian Reggae Awards.

Pluggy lived in his beloved Little Jamaica community for years. He always thought of others and gave back to the community while mentoring and encouraging youth within the neighborhood. While pursuing his singing and dancing career, he worked in The University of Toronto's Department of Zoology for years as an animal technician.

Pluggy's joyous spirit brightened every room he was in and he is remembered for his humour and kindness.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Pluggy's family.

June 1, 2022