

Edward "Ed" Jeske

Ed Jeske passed away peacefully in Yellowknife on April 22, 2012, at the age of 85, after a great life, well lived. The youngest of eight siblings born in Poland to Adolph and Tillie Jeske, Ed grew up on a farm in Minitonas, Manitoba. He and his young wife Blanche arrived in the North in 1956 where he helped build the first airstrip in what is now Inuvik. He settled his young family in Yellowknife in 1958, and began a distinguished 31-year teaching career at Sir John Franklin Territorial High School. Ed taught everything from heavy equipment operation, construction, automotive, and driver training to students who came from all over the Arctic. He loved his students and co-workers alike and taught with patience and humour.

Ed marked every day of his life with generosity, Christian service, volunteerism, sportsmanship, humanity, friendship and sheer love of life. He was a passionate booster of Yellowknife and life in the North and was loved by everyone he ever worked with. He was the recipient of awards, honours, lifetime memberships and citations too numerous to list. His most distinguished honours included the Yellowknife Respected Elder and Volunteer of NWT, the Queen's 50th Golden Jubilee Medal, the Ed Jeske Bursary, and he represented Yellowknife three times at the National Senior Mens' Curling Championships. The greatest highlight of all came when Ed's contribution to the game of hockey in Yellowknife was recognized when the new Olympic ice arena was named after him in 2009. Ed loved a ceremony, a good

party, a homecoming, Lunch with the Bunch, buns at Barb's or any happy celebration, and he was known to yodel when the moment was right.

Ed leaves an inspirational legacy of love; he will be deeply missed by his lifelong companions Jan Stirling and Barb Bromley and will be missed most of all by family: sons Dale (Wendy) and Wayne (Candy), daughter Cindy, and grandchildren Alexandra (Matt), Ian, Hayley, Jeff, Michael, Adam, Spencer and Bryce.

A funeral and celebration of Ed's life was held Saturday, April 28. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation in Ed's name to the Yellowknife United Church, the Yellowknife Seniors Society or any of the charities and services Ed supported.



"Well done thy good and faithful servant..." - Matthew 25:23