

# Nate Siegel passes away at 85

Today, we are paying our last respects not to an elderly gentleman, but to an institution". With these words, Rabbi Ari Drelich began his eulogy for Nate Siegel who passed away July 7th after a lengthy illness.

Considered a cornerstone of the Edmonton

Jewish community, Mr. Siegel played an integral part in maintaining the "Yiddisshkeit" of the Edmonton Jewish community in both his business and daily life.

He served for many years as "gabbai" at Beth Israel Synagogue and in 1992 was honoured togeth-

er with Norman Zalmanowitz at the synagogue's 85th anniversary dinner. He was also 1987 Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner honouree.

In 1986, Mr. Siegel, his wife Lillian, and Norman and Phillip Zalmanowitz, seeing that the community was in dire need of a

kosher meat supplier, opened Edmonton Kosher Meats which operated until earlier this year. Aaron Shtabsky, who also spoke at the funeral, recalled Nate's familiar presence at kosher functions in Edmonton hotels where he acted as *Mashgiach*.

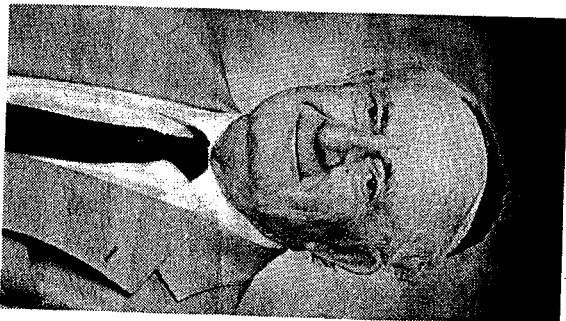
Perhaps his greatest contribution to the community was through his devotion to the Chevra Kadisha, the Jewish Burial Society.

Rabbi Drelich said of Mr. Siegel "for himself, modest was sufficient, but for the community, only the biggest and best would do."

Rabbi Drelich remarked that when he arrived in Edmonton, the size and facilities of the Chesed Shel Emes chapel surprised him considering the size of the community. It was the dedication of Nate Siegel who made the building possible, he said.

Nate Siegel joined the Chevra Kadisha immediately upon his arrival in Edmonton over 50 years ago and served as president for the past 27 years until his death.

Mr. Shtabsky, a longtime friend said that Mr.



Nate Siegel

Siegel inspired him and others to take leadership roles in the community and with this passing a void existed which new leaders must come forward and fill.

Burial took place at the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery July 8th. As a sign of respect, the funeral procession drove by the Beth Israel Synagogue on the route from the Chapel to the cemetery.