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Midland students learn about holocaust from touring exhibit

By : Heather Butts, Reporter/Videographer, CTV News Barrie

Students in Midland received a lesson in a different type of classroom on Thursday as a touring exhibit created by the 'Friends of Simon Weisenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies' made a stop in the community.

The 'Tour for Humanity' bus is a mobile classroom and has been making its way around the province as part of its Canadian experience presentation.

"It begins with Simon Wiesenthal's story which weaves into the greater aspect of the holocaust and World War II," says education associate Daniella Lurion.

It then cycles back to our own history as Canadians, focusing on Japanese internment camps, anti-Semitism in Canada and residential schools.

"The very last residential school to close was 1996, not even 20 years ago, so that's something that is really surprising to them because they think of history has being so far in the past that it doesn't matter anymore," adds Lurion.

But it does, as students from Huron Park Public School in Midland learned; history is evident now just in different forms, like bullying.

"Before I were to bully someone I wouldn't think that I was all that much trouble for them but now I know that it could hurt them a lot, not physically but their feelings," says grade seven student Stephanie Alves.

The goal of the exhibit is to get students thinking of what they can do to make a difference.

In the last year the bus has travelled to more than 100 schools and communities across the province, reaching more than 50,000 people.