

# OPINION

THE GAZETTE - A Division of Hayter-Walden Publications Inc.  
ESTABLISHED IN 1870  
Published every Thursday  
165 Parkhill King St., Parkhill, ON, N0M 2K0  
PH: 519-294-6264 • FAX: 519-294-6391  
E-MAIL: gazette@execulink.com

## editorial

By Eric Nixon,  
Hayter-Walden Publications

### How learning from the past may help make a better future

Living in a small, rural area, it's sometimes easy to forget that there's a big, bad world out there filled with horrific injustices taking place on a daily basis. On the other hand, we may also forget that similar injustices are often occurring right in our own backyards - and that we need to be ever-vigilant to prevent them from escalating into violent consequences that may never be undone.

All of those messages and more came to mind during a presentation I watched with a group of Parkhill high school students this past week. That presentation was delivered on a bus of all places, but not just any bus.

The \$1.2 million Tour For Humanity mobile education centre was created by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) and travels across the province telling people about the effects and consequences

of hate and intolerance.

Those messages were delivered to the students at North Middlesex District High School by Daniella Lurion, an Education Associate with FSWC. Her presentation demonstrates how horrific events that have happened throughout the past century can serve as lessons for all of us today about what's happening around us - whether that's on the world stage or right here at home.

Drew Cook, the Principal at NMDHS, says it's important to let today's young people know about the global village we all live in. "Our students, even more so than some of those in larger schools, need to be reminded that there's a big world out there," he explains, adding, "It's so easy in a small school to get complacent."

As a person who's travelled to a former Nazi concentration camp himself, Cook believes

the messages of the Holocaust and the numerous other genocides that have taken place in recent history can provide a valuable instructive tool for today's teenagers.

At the school's Remembrance Day assembly last November, Cook told about how his grandfather survived the Battle of Dieppe, but spent the next two years in a German POW camp in Poland. He related a story about visiting the German concentration camp himself, calling it "a war memorial of dark and horrible imaginings."

And, even though World War II ended 70 years ago, the hatred and intolerance that led to the extermination of millions must never be forgotten. "These atrocities happened," Cook says. "If we thought the Holocaust was, maybe, the end of an era of darkness, in fact, probably, it was just one in a long line of atrocities."

For the FSWC's Danielle Lurion, that's one of the important messages she hopes to pass on to the thousands of students she interacts with every year. She firmly believes the Tour For Humanity is accomplishing its mission: to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds, empowering them to raise their voices and take action against hate and intolerance, bullying and to promote justice and human rights.

"You can see in their eyes that they're really getting the message," she says.

More than that, however, it's important for people, especially these impressionable young high school students, to know they can make a difference in the world. "You can do something, even if it's small," says Lurion, noting that many people who have helped to defeat hatred and intolerance never started out with that intention. "Heroes weren't born

that way. They became heroes."

So, as the Tour For Humanity bus leaves the area and heads off to its next destination, the hope is that some of lessons learned will remain. Today, the world continues to fight atrocities like the ones being committed by ISIS and other extremist groups who continue to practice their own ongoing forms of genocide.

It's important for people of all ages - but especially for our younger generation - to continue combatting those who oppose diversity, democracy and human rights. "There's never a time that you can stop thinking about just how horrible the world can be when hatred and intolerance rears its head," says Cook. That battle must be fought continually - not just on a large scale - but also on a very tiny one.

When asked how he intends to connect the dots between the images

of the Holocaust and the incidents of quiet hatred and simmering intolerance that happen every day in our rural home towns, Cook makes it clear that it will take real effort on everyone's part - staff, parents and the whole community - to ensure the important messages are never lost or forgotten.

"Our challenge now...will be to take those great big global occurrences and bring them home to the random acts that occur between two people in a hallway," he explains.

Cook is willing to face that challenge - and confident that the lessons learned on a crowded bus during one day in June can lead to positive changes that will last a lifetime. "Good things are going to come from this," he says, with a hopeful smile on his face.

### Fatal collision at Nairn and Centre Roads

By Barb Shea,  
Hayter-Walden  
Publications

A fatal collision occurred at the intersection of Centre Road and Nairn Road on Friday June 5th at 3:59pm.

A black Ford car, driven by Mary Murray-Wardlaw, aged 74, was travelling westbound on Nairn road when she stopped at the stop sign on the west side of Nairn Road. The car then proceeded into the intersec-

tion, and was struck on the drivers side, by a red International transport truck and trailer, driven by a 50 year old male from Bosanquet Township, loaded with fertilizer. The transport truck was travelling north on Centre Road. The two vehicles then struck a third vehicle, a grey Dodge SUV travelling southbound, driven by a 41 year old male from Chatham, Ontario. The SUV, which swerved to

avoid the accident, overturned and came to a stop on its roof in the west ditch of Centre Road.

According to the Middlesex County OPP, Mary Murray-Wardlaw, driver of the black Ford, was pronounced dead on the scene. The lone occupant of the transport truck was uninjured. The lone occupant of the SUV was transported to hospital by ambulance with non-life threatening injuries and was discharged.

As a result, Centre Road was closed from Coldstream Road to Elginfield Road and Nairn Road was closed from Springbank Road to Haskett Road. The OPP Technical Traffic Collision Investigators attended the scene to help with the investigation. Motorists had to avoid the area and find alternative routes until the roads were re-opened at about 11:15pm that day.

The  
**Gazette**

HAYTER-WALDEN Publications INC.

We acknowledge the financial support of the  
Government of Canada through the  
Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.



We acknowledge the [financial] support of the  
Government of Canada.

**Canada**

Philip Walden - OWNER  
Dale Hayter - PUBLISHER/OWNER  
Melanie McCarter - OWNER/COMPOSITION  
Eric Nixon - EDITOR/REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER  
Barb Shea - REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER  
Clark Teeple - REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER  
Randy McCarter - COMMERCIAL PRINTING  
Ron Van Damme - ADVERTISING SALES  
Marj Irwin - ACCOUNTS (Forest - Head Office)

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 400, 165 Parkhill King Street,  
Parkhill, Ontario N0M 2K0

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** gazette@execulink.com  
**PHONE:** 519.294.6264 • **FAX:** 519.294.6391

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**

Canada \$76.19 + \$3.81 TAX = \$80.00 • U.S.A. \$200 (Cdn.)  
Single Copy: \$1.90 + .10¢ TAX = \$2.00

For your  
convenience  
we accept:



GAZETTE OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday, 10 am to 3 pm

**HAVE AN INTERESTING  
NEWS STORY  
Contact Gazette Editor Eric Nixon  
ericdavidnixon@gmail.com**