

Westwood Historical Society

The Westwood Historical Society was established during the 2019-2020 school year. Its mission is to create awareness and compassion for anyone who has experienced discrimination or isolation, and to inspire today's youth to have a voice in creating a more tolerant world.

Mr. Hiebert decided to offer students an opportunity to study issues on human rights and other topics of interest to them, in a more in-depth way than could be covered in class. They decided that they would focus specifically on the Holocaust, as it's a very important topic that many students either do not understand or about which they have misconceptions. The idea was born upon Mr. Hiebert's return from the Holocaust Tour that he led during Spring Break of 2019.

B'nai Brith Canada is offering a Human Rights grant, and to apply, the WHS decided to make a documentary is entitled "Let the Survivors Speak: The Rise in Hate and Antisemitism in Canada Today". The WHS held meetings every Tuesday to discuss ideas and collaborate on the documentary. The trailer that has been created took around 2-3 months and is being used to apply for the BNai Brith Association Human Rights Grant. Everything you see in the documentary was created by students, including the music, which was composed by Kat McDougall. The video was edited and created by Julian Joaquin and Nathan Varghese. The WHS has already interviewed Professor Daniel Stone (professor emeritus), and Holocaust survivor Angela Orisz- Richt (who was born in Auschwitz in Dec, 1944), and many others will be included.

Here is the link to the official trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRXSoxIE-a8>