

Cape Breton teachers off to Israel

BY DEBBIE GWYNN

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SYDNEY

Three teachers from Cape Breton have been chosen to attend a four-day conference in Israel, Teaching the Holocaust to Future Generations.

"It's a real privilege for us to attend," said Kevin Linden, a teacher at Brookland Elementary School in Sydney.

All three teachers have been chosen because of their work over the years educating their students about the holocaust through various mediums.

Linden was nominated as holocaust educator of the year in 2005.

In 1986, when Linden first introduced holocaust education to his students, people were leery about touching base with the sensitive topic.

"I really think as teachers we have to not worry about touching on it," said Linden, "but talk about the human empathy that went on during that time."

Linden brings his students to the holocaust memorial services at the synagogue on



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Three Cape Breton teachers will leave Friday to attend a four-day international conference in Jerusalem from June 26-29 entitled, Teaching the Holocaust to Future Generations. From left, Lynn Crawford, Mira Road Elementary School, Kevin Linden, Brookland Elementary School, Sydney, and Diane Lewis, Memorial High School, Sydney Mines.

Whitney Avenue each year.

"It's the most powerful thing the students experience because it's an actual story of someone's life," said Linden.

Lynn Crawford's experience has been with the Race

Relations Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights (RCH). She was selected because of the work she has been doing with race relations.

"She's brought a great deal

to the board with cultural diversity," said Linden.

Diane Lewis, a teacher at Memorial High School, Sydney Mines, made a discovery in 1993 that led to her writing an essay, which was then

turned into a documentary for CBC-Maritime Magazine and broadcast in 2004.

The goal of the conference is to provide a forum for all interested educators to address issues pertinent to

holocaust education within their individual frameworks, as well as to provide participants with current educational age appropriate curricula and activities.

Leading speakers from across the globe will make presentations geared for educators.

In addition to presentations, the group will visit holocaust memorial sites and museums.

"The holocaust education committee is constantly trying to educate the public in regard to the holocaust," said Linden. "As our veterans are aging so are our holocaust survivors. They want their stories to be told."

The end result of the trip will be to ensure that holocaust education continues in the future.

The expectation is that when the teachers return from Jerusalem, they will share their newly acquired knowledge with other teachers in the area, because there is always the fear that what we forget about the past we are doomed to repeat.

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