

Realizing the importance of freedom

All my life I've heard of the atrocities committed by the Nazis in the Second World War concentration camps.

But this week, I heard a first-hand account of the story from Eva Olsson, how she managed to "go to hell and back," and live to tell the story.

Olsson, a survivor of the Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps, documented her story in her book, *Unlocking the Doors*.

The 78-year-old author addressed students at Stewarttown Public School Monday.

It was a sometimes grisly story.

Olsson told how she and her parents, siblings and nieces, were confined with others to a tiny house in her hometown in native Hungary, after being rounded up by the Nazis in May of 1944.

She described in detail, the seven-kilometre trek to a train station where they thought they going to work at a brick factory, but instead ended up at a "killing factory".

The four-day journey to Auschwitz was made in a cold, dark boxcar, crammed with 100 men, women and children, drinking water from one pail and using another as a toilet.

"Imagine for a moment," said Olsson, "Many times that pail would fall over, and human waste would flow all over the floor of the boxcar."

Once at Auschwitz, they filed out of the stench of the boxcars to face another smell— one emitted from the rows of smokestacks, the smell of cremating the bodies of her Jewish colleagues.

Olsson told how she held her niece's hand when they arrived, but a prisoner told her to let go of the child's hand. Three times he told her to release the girl's hand. She thought he might know something she didn't, so she complied.

Later they were sorted according to their health and age. The elderly, children and disabled were taken directly to the gas chambers. Olsson and her younger sister were sent to be labourers.

"If I had hung on to my niece's hand, I wouldn't be here today," said a solemn Olsson.

Throughout her presentation, the gym at Stewarttown School was eerily quiet. I'd never seen such a speaker grip the attention of several hundred students. Some kids had to leave— her story was simply too horrible for them to bear.

Living on starvation rations, Olsson was sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, "where the dead bodies were stacked up like firewood."

As the Allies advanced, the Nazis decided everyone at Bergen-Belsen would be killed at 3 p.m. April 15, 1945. The camp was liberated by British and Canadian soldiers at 11 a.m. that day.

A TED BIT



Ted Brown



Eva Olsson, a concentration camp survivor, addresses students at Stewarttown Public School Monday. Photo by Ted Brown

"We hadn't had water for six days," said Olsson, "The Nazis hoped we'd die before the Allies arrived to liberate us."

"Even though the Allies got us to hospitals as fast as possible, thousands died," continued Olsson, "They were simply beyond medical aid."

Olsson and her sister managed to survive but were plagued by health and emotional problems.

But she's turned her horror into a positive by sharing her story. She relates it to modern day, telling of the evils of prejudice against minorities or those who hold different religious beliefs.

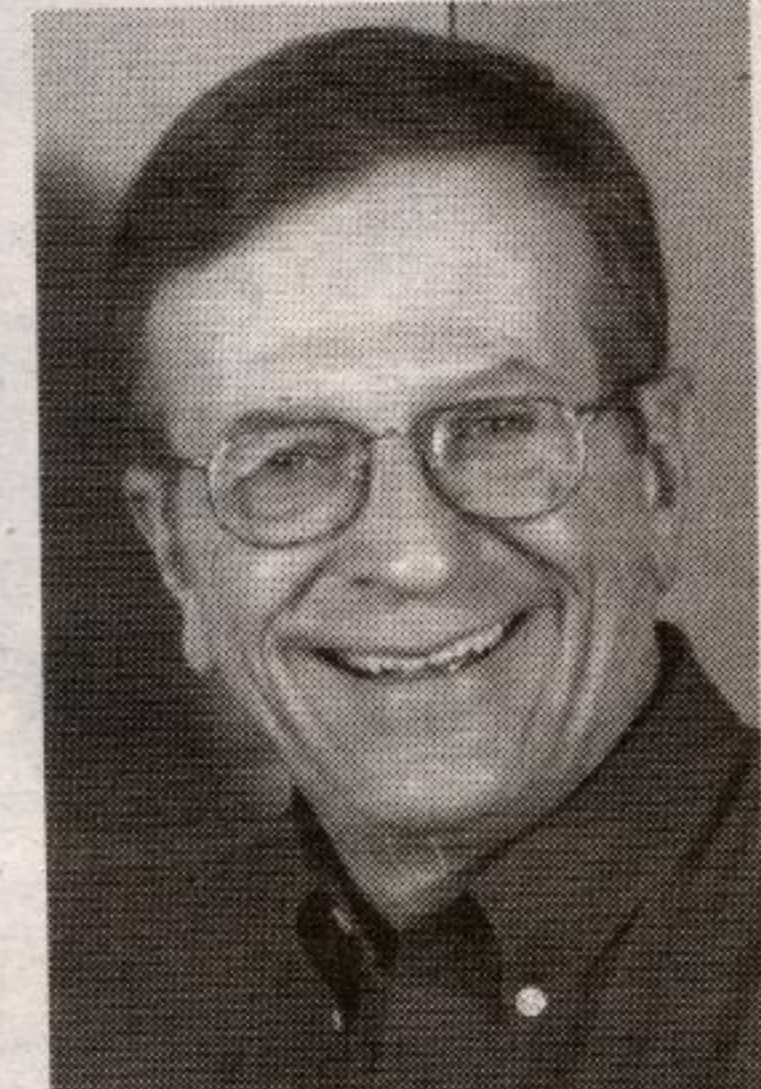
Eva Olsson is a strong woman, a survivor who did go to hell and back. And perhaps, in the grand scheme of things, her survival has served a far greater purpose with the telling of her story.

I admit, after Monday, freedom and tolerance have taken on a whole new meaning to me.

And I really hope those couple hundred kids at Stewarttown Public School feel the same.

On Nov 10, say goodbye to the politics of the past Vote for John Day as Mayor

In this Mayorality election of 2003, you have a clear choice. You, the voters of Halton Hills, either 'choose how it has been done before', or vote for John Day, a man who has a solid 8-Point Platform, the professional experience and the drive to turn Halton Hills into the jewel of the GTA.



John Day
The People's Mayor
for Halton Hills

John Day is the only candidate who has learned the tools of municipal administration and community development by working for 17 years for the City of Mississauga. What better qualifications will you ever get in the Halton Hills' race for Mayor?

John Day is committed to protecting the features that make Halton Hills unique amongst the GTA communities. His Platform includes:

- Hosting regular Town Hall meetings to discuss your issues
- Improving our social, physical & economic environment
- Managing growth
- Establishing affordable, regular and reliable transportation for Seniors
- Improving our roads
- Responsible budgets
- Supporting youth and seniors affairs
- Wider choice of affordable housing
- Working for local, urban and rural prosperity
- Cutting red tape... to mention a few.

Halton Hills cannot drift for another three years, becoming just another suburban bedroom community with no identity of its own. That's why you need to vote for John Day as your new Mayor on Nov 10.

"Halton Hills can become the jewel of the GTA but it won't happen by allowing another three years of the status quo or... by choosing how it has been done before. Please read my platform on my website...or call 905 877 7083 for more details." John Day

Web: www.johnday.ca2.ca or www.johnday2003.ca Phone: 905 877 7083

Authorized by the CFO John Day Mayorality Campaign

YOUNG'S PHARMACY

HALLOWEEN SPECIALS

HALLOWEEN MASKS
CHILDREN'S COSTUMES
HOME DECOR
MAKE-UP
50% OFF

SKITTLES
CADBURY TREATS
SMARTIES
144 grams
\$1.99

ALAN
KISSES
300 grams
99¢

CADBURY ASSORTED
50 PACK
Reg, \$8.49
\$5.99

HERSHEY ASSORTED
50 PACK
Reg, \$9.99
\$6.99

PHARM
ASSIST



Guardian


Downtown Georgetown

905-877-2711



Happy
13th
Birthday
Christina

Love
Mom, Dad,
Sarah, Julia,
Rosie Posie,
Grandma, Grandpa,
Family & Friends



HAPPY
SIXTY-SIX
YOU OLE
FART!

Your loving
daughter
& son

Annual Ski & Snowboard Swap



Come to the Swap for a great deal on your
Ski & Snowboard Equipment
Great prices on New and Used Clothing
Equipment Drop Off

Fri., October 31, Noon - 10 pm • Sat., November 1, 10 am - 2 pm

Hours of Operation

Fri., October 31, 4 pm - 10pm • Sat., November 1, 10 am - 4 pm
Sun., November 2, noon - 4 pm

Unsold Equipment pick-up Nov. 2, 6 - 8 pm

Method of Payment: Cash, Cheque & Interac

New Product Displays • Dealer Booths

All proceeds to support the Milton Heights Racing Program
More info on the web site www.miltonheights.com

A BIG THANK YOU FROM Finders Discoveries Art Gallery



To all the great folks that came out to meet MATTHEW FLEET at our Grand opening. The response was just overwhelming. The winners of our free draw are Barbara Agnes of Acton Catherine Salem of Georgetown & Barbara Dusablon of Mississauga Matthew's works will now be on permanent display at the gallery. We look forward to supporting more of our local artists at special art shows.

Finders Discoveries
Art Gallery
& Unique Collectibles
243 Main St N ACTON ON
519-853-1675