

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ventriloquist's Anti-Bullying Show
Takes to the Stage at the Canadian Tulip Festival**

May 10, 2005 - Master comedy ventriloquist, Val Hilliker, will perform her show entitled "Sticks and Stones" in Ottawa at the Canadian Tulip Festival later this month. The theme of this year's Festival "*A Celebration of Peace and Friendship*," ties in nicely with Hilliker's show about bullying in the schoolyard.

"Sticks and Stones" is designed to teach children methods they can use to counter bullying situations at school. Hilliker teaches kids how to deal with bullies in a climate of peace and friendship, through the use of her puppets, and a series of easy to remember 'Chillin' Strategies. She firmly believes that we all need to learn to treat others with respect, and to look beyond our differences.

Hilliker says "Sticks and Stones do hurt . . . as well as name calling, exclusion and gossiping. The show is a 'get real with yourself' type of reality comedy show." Hilliker encourages active participation from the children in the audience, who love to see the puppets come to life, which appear very real to young children. This is what makes them so powerful in a learning situation.

Val Hilliker is a woman who walks her talk. She is not just a Master Ventriloquist, but also an artist, a mother, and a stand up comedian! Hilliker has been empowering children and bringing joy and laughter to schools, hospitals and fun events around Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia since October of 2003...and now she's finally made it to Ontario! This July, Hilliker will also proudly represent Canada at the World's largest ventriloquist convention in Kentucky.

Val is a graduate of the Cheers Project, a workshop in stand-up comedy, the Judy Carter workshop and Joe Flaherty Improv workshop. She is a graduate of therapeutic puppetry and therapeutic ventriloquism and is a licensed World Laughter Leader.

Look for Val Hilliker in the Sun Life Financial Kid Zone at the Canadian Tulip Festival on Saturday, May 21 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., on Sunday, May 22 at 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. and on Monday, May 23 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

For more information on the Canadian Tulip Festival visit the website at www.tulipfestival.ca, or call the Tulip Hotline at (613) 567-4447, or Toll Free at 1-800-66-TULIP.



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For more information, or photo opportunities:

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