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Today

April is Poetry Month @ the Pembroke Public Library!

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Chartwell's 4th Annual Senior Star Competition

Crafts for "Twos" Every Friday @ the Pembroke Public Library

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Lego Club for Kids! on the First Saturday of Every Month

Ontario SPCA Friends For Life! Walk-a-thon

PAWS to Read

Reading Clubs have started!

Reading Programs for Children @ the Pembroke Public Library

Goodall can't stop mission

Posted By **BRYN WEESE PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU**

Posted 2 days ago

OTTAWA -- Jane Goodall won't stop trying to save the planet. In fact, the spry 76-year-old who travels the globe 300 days a year spreading her message of conservation says she "can't stop.

"I do it because I care very passionately about the children. I also care very passionately about the animals and the environment," she said Monday in Ottawa. "If you actually care and you feel that you can do even something small to help, then you just have to go on.

"You can't stop, in a sense."

Goodall was in the capital for a noon-hour speech on Parliament Hill organized by the all-party International Conservation Caucus.

Known for her 50 years of studying Tanzanian chimpanzee populations -- a study which has redefined the understanding of human beings and their place in the world -- Goodall has since become a celebrated advocate for peace, social justice and the environment at large.

Her invitation-only talk drew a crowd of about 150, including the high commissioners for Tanzania and Britain and the Austrian ambassador.

While Goodall warned of humans "galloping towards destruction," and "stealing" the planet from future generations, she offered hope, too.

Not only are there examples of species being saved from the brink of extinction -- the topic of one of her books -- "even the most devastated environment can be restored," she said.

Also, there is hope in young people, whom the Jane Goodall Institute has mobilized through the Roots and Shoots initiative. With over 10,000 programs in more than 100 countries -- there are 500 in Canada alone -- Roots and Shoots helps youth organize grassroots conservation and animal welfare projects.

"When all these young children grow up ... they are the next parents, the next teachers, doctors, lawyers, and politicians," Goodall told QMI Agency after being mobbed for photographs and hand shakes by those attending Monday's talk.

"If we can get a critical mass of youth that understands that money isn't everything, and that while we need money to live we shouldn't be living for money, and who understands different kinds of values than the materialistic values that I think pushed us in this wrong direction ... there is hope."



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NDP MP Linda Duncan, an admitted "big fan" of Goodall's, said her presence in Ottawa should keep everyone "centred," and her message won't go unheeded.

bryn.weese@sunmedia.ca

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