



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 17, 2008

**JANE GOODALL'S ROOTS & SHOOTS PEACE DAY**

***Local youth come together on September 21 to celebrate peace***

(TORONTO, ON) -- Following the lead of their hero—renowned primatologist **Dr. Jane Goodall**, Ph.D., DBE—young people in Toronto will come together for a ***Roots & Shoots Peace Day*** event on **September 21** from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hart House Circle, University of Toronto**. The Jane Goodall Institute of Canada's *Roots & Shoots* program is hosting an event where peace doves will be flown to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace.

A UN Messenger of Peace since 2002, Dr. Goodall established *Roots & Shoots* Day of Peace in 2004 to encourage *Roots & Shoots* members and other interested individuals to promote peace in their communities and around the globe. *Roots & Shoots* members and friends craft Giant Peace Dove Puppets from reused materials and fly the doves in their communities to symbolize their commitment to peace. In past years, Giant Peace Dove Puppets have flown in almost 100 countries in city parks, backyards, convention centres and even refugee camps. Held high by young hands, the Doves have spread their wings everywhere including the Coliseum in Rome, a monastery in Mongolia, the base of Mount Fuji and even the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro.

From **10 a.m. to noon**, this year's event in Toronto will include the construction of peace doves, food and inspirational speeches by local youth, including Bilaal Rajan. Rajan is an amazing young Canadian who at age 4 started raising funds to help earthquake survivors in India. What started with \$350 dollars has grown into a host of charitable events over the years. In 2005 he was named Canada's UNICEF National Child Representative.

At approximately **1 p.m.**, the assembled youth will march to Queen's Park to the beat of African drumming, where the doves will be flown to raise awareness about the International Day of Peace.

"With the Peace Doves, we remind everyone of the truth they sometimes forget—that peace is possible. We celebrate all that is free and noble in the human spirit. And we celebrate all that so many people have done throughout the year—and will do next year—to create a better world," said Dr. Goodall.

For the almost 100,000 *Roots & Shoots* members from nearly 100 countries, peace is a way of life. With *Roots & Shoots*, peace is possible.

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## **The Jane Goodall Institute**

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global non-profit that empowers people to make a difference for all living things. We are creating healthy ecosystems, promoting sustainable livelihoods and nurturing new generations of committed, active citizens around the world. The Jane Goodall Institute of Canada, founded in 1994, supports community-centred conservation programs in Africa, sanctuaries for orphaned chimpanzees, and the *Roots & Shoots* program in Canada. For more information, visit [www.janegoodall.ca](http://www.janegoodall.ca)

## **About Roots & Shoots**

Founded in 1991 by Dr. Jane Goodall and a group of Tanzanian students, the Roots & Shoots program is about making positive change happen—for our communities, for animals and for the environment. With tens of thousands of young people in almost 100 countries, the *Roots & Shoots* network connects youth of all ages who share a desire to create a better world. Young people identify problems in their communities and take action. Through service projects, youth-led campaigns and an interactive website, *Roots & Shoots* members are making a difference across the globe. For more information, please visit <http://www.janegoodall.ca/roots-shoots.php>

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