

“**School Bullying Program Links Belgrade to Calgary**” from the Calgary Herald – January 30, 2005
“Puppeteers teach kids life lessons. When it comes to conflict, no matter the scale of it, there’s usually a bully or bullies involved.” “The program is hugely successful.” Tracy Pickup
- **John Gradon**

Ponoka News March 9, 2005...”presented by Val Hilliker of Calgary is a phenomenal experience for both children and adults of all ages. The performance presents interactive scenarios that are designed to tackle the difficult issues of Bullying.”

- Mike Ranone

“The performance was **entertaining**, fun and humorous. It delivered a serious message about bullying in a humorous manner. Sticks and Stones was **thought provoking** especially making children aware of gossiping and name calling.”

- S. Jones Andrew Sibbald School

Playful Puppets produce Poised Performance. December 1,2004 Clarsholm Local Press

- Ian Shute

Power of Puppets Medicine Hat News January 31, 2005 “ Children model the behavior of adults around them.” Val Hilliker says, “We would love to show parents our show.”

- Ms Fowler

Puppets teach Friendship and respect. Calgary Herald, January 6, 2005 “ All of Hillikers shows are about bullying and the **strategies** kids can follow to deal with it. “

- Pamela McDowell

Puppets put Bullying Center Stage. Nanton News December 1, 2004.” Students don’t need to put up with bullying was the message.”

- Laurel Nadon

Most of our students had never seen a ventriloquist before and were **amazed at this talent**. They **smiled** and **laughed** more than we've seen all year. They truly loved it!!!

- M. Brinson Grade 3 Crossing Park School February 2005

“**Catchy!** The puppets held the students attention and the message was timely. I loved the voices and the fact that you **involved the audience**.”

- K Colucci, St. Ambrose School.

“**Beautiful message**, well executed. The performance will have an influence on the bystander at our school because the students remember everything about this play.”

- K. Schweighardt, St. Philips School

“Val and her team bring a very important message in a **highly entertaining** way. She and her puppets know just what children say to each other and care about. Together with the audience, they tackle put-downs, bullying and selfishness in a way that everyone remembers long afterward. **Project Ploughshares highly recommends this show** for making children care about the issues involved and helping them know what to do.”

- Project Ploughshares, Sally Hodges

June 2, 2005

Mrs. Val Hilliker
412 Brookpark Drive S.W.
Calgary Alberta
T2W 3N7

Dear Val,

On behalf of The Canadian Tulip Festival, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you for performing in the Sun Life Financial Kid Zone at this year's Canadian Tulip Festival in Ottawa on May 21 to May 23, 2005. It was great to see smiles on the faces of children, parents and staff alike that were lucky enough to see your beautiful puppets.

Although there many days of rain and clouds which could have cancelled or postponed shows, I was pleased you were willing to push ahead with the show biz attitude of "the show must on". Your willingness and ability to adapt your show from a large outdoor performance to a more intimate setting inside a covered tent was integral to the success of the Kid Zone at The Canadian Tulip Festival.

Thanks again for all you hard work to help make the Kid Zone a successful part of the 2005 Canadian Tulip Festival.

Best Wishes and good luck in the future.

Sincerely,
The Canadian Tulip Festival



Cathy Caldwell
Children's Program Coordinator



September 12, 2005

Dear Val,

Thank you for the fantastic entertainment you have provided at our park over the past two seasons. Your ventriloquist product is very fun! Our guests have thoroughly enjoyed you and your characters around our park. I appreciate how mobile you are with your amplification set-up, being able to reach our guests unexpectedly at any point along our pathways. I also appreciate your professionalism and your flexibility on those rainy days we had! You are a perfect match for the theme park biz!

We look forward to working with you again in the future.

Chris Thompson
Entertainment Manager
CALAWAY PARK

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To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter in reference to Val Hilliker. Val attends our church, SunWest Christian Fellowship and has shared her gifts in our Children's Ministry. Val is extremely gifted as a ventriloquist and performer.

She has created original and very creative presentations to enhance our program. Val uses her puppets to teach children how to live a life in accordance to God's laws. Children can relate to her puppets and the situations or feelings that they share.

Val has a great sense of humour that comes out in each presentation. She uses a participatory style that allows children to interact with the puppets and volunteer to be part of the show. She also engages adults with her storytelling and comedic abilities.

I would recommend Val to any group interested in a dynamic presentation that both teaches and entertains.

Sincerely,

Jeff Marshall
Pastor of Children's Ministry

www.sunwestchurch.com



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October 13th, 2005

To Whom it May Concern,

In September 2005, we were privileged to have Val Hilliker come to our church for ministry. It was our Fall Kick Off Sunday, an important time to rally people and initiate new programs. Val ministered in our open session for Sunday School. Her 20 minutes entertained, captivated attention and taught valuable lessons. We found her lesson and the use of ventriloquism well integrated. People of all ages enjoyed Val at our Parking lot Party that evening. Personally, I appreciated Val's flexibility. Her willingness to adapt to a variety of settings and contexts was deeply appreciated. I would definitely consider bringing Val Hilliker back for church ministry and believe she has much to offer to the Body of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Pastor Derrick Hamre
Senior Pastor, Emmanuel Assembly