



Parc Downsview Park  
Canada

*Downsview Park Foundation*  
*Fondation parc Downsview*  
**Downsview Park Foundation**  
**Fondation parc Downsview**

## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Close to 1,300 students congregate at Downsview Park to unite communities around the globe and ecosystems

Lisa Hastings-Beck  
Director, Public Affairs & Communications  
Directrice affaires publiques et  
communications  
Tel.: 416-954-0040  
E-mail: lhastings@downsviewpark.ca

Sheila Krone  
Jewish National Fund of Canada  
Tel.: 416-638-7200, ext. 30  
E-mail: sheila.krone@jnf.ca

[www.jnf.ca](http://www.jnf.ca)

Parc Downsview Park Inc.  
1-35 Carl Hall Road  
Toronto ON M3K 2B6  
Tel.: 416-952-2222  
Fax: 416-952-2225

Parc Downsview Park Inc.  
1-35, chemin Carl Hall  
Toronto (Ontario)  
M3K 2B6  
Tél.: 416-952-2222  
Télééc.: 416-952-2225

[www.downsviewpark.ca](http://www.downsviewpark.ca)

Toronto, ON, June 16, 2009 — Jewish National Fund and Downsview Park Foundation sponsored *Twinning Day* at Downsview Park takes place on Wednesday, June 17, 2009. This memorable event launches with a welcome ceremony at 11 a.m.

This milestone event will bring together close to 1,300 students in Grades 3 through 8 from across the Greater Toronto Area from Jewish, Public and Separate schools will come to Downsview Park to take part in tree planting, litter clean-up and sports activities.

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) and Downsview Park Foundation “twinning” is the first event of many as the Jewish National Fund launches a new twinning initiative with the Downsview Park Foundation and Parc Downsview Park Inc. (PDP) to plant trees in both the Canada Forest of Downsview Park and the Toronto Community Forest at Yatir, Israel, turning arid soil into blooming areas of green, launching this event on the World Day for Desertification.

“I am very pleased that we are participating in this cooperative event between JNF Toronto and Downsview Park,” said Jerry Werger, President, JNF Toronto. “Jewish National Fund and its ongoing programs dealing with infrastructure and the environment are well demonstrated in this project. For that, we at JNF thank Downsview Park for this opportunity and recognition.”

Students will gain hands-on experience with stewardship initiatives here at home and make a difference around the globe, uniting communities and ecosystems. Downsview Park is a 231-hectare sustainable community and urban park that is managed on the three principles of sustainability—environmental, social and economic.

“As we help Downsview Park become a national landmark, reflecting Canada’s mosaic brilliance, we are thrilled to now also support similar efforts internationally,” explains Rina Camarra, Chair of the Downsview Park Foundation. “The fact that it is our youth, so many who have come together to expand on Downsview Park’s Canada Forest and to have this initiative affect others on the other side of the globe is inspirational.”

“We are building a park for all people; the stewardship support from the surrounding communities and groups such as JNF is what will make Downsview Park truly Canada national urban park in the Greater Toronto Area,” said Tony Genco, President and CEO, Parc Downsview Park Inc. “Initiatives such as the launch of this *Twinning Day* theme will continue to make Downsview Park the legacy of future generations that we are striving to build together.”

*Downsview Park main entrance is located near Keele Street and Sheppard Avenue, in Toronto. The Twinning Day will launch with a special welcome ceremony for youth and honoured guests at 11 a.m. at 40 Carl Hall Road, Studio 3. Students will then rotate through scheduled activities from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

---

### **About Jewish National Fund**

The Jewish National Fund is a non-profit organization founded in 1901 that has evolved into a global environmental leader by planting 240 million trees, building over 200 reservoirs and dams, developing over 250,000 acres of land, creating more than 1,000 parks, providing the infrastructure for over 1,000 communities, bringing life to the Negev Desert and educating students around the world about Israel and the environment.

### **About Downsview Park Foundation**

The Downsview Park Foundation is a registered charitable organization dedicated to assisting in the development of Downsview Park in achieving its potential. A group of volunteers established the Foundation independent of Parc Downsview Park Inc., to heighten awareness of the important work the lands can do in achieving its mandate for all Canadians on a self-financing basis.

### **About Downsview Park**

Formerly a military base (CFB Toronto), Downsview Park was established by the Government of Canada, stipulating that the land be developed as “a unique urban recreational greenspace for the enjoyment of future generations.” Parc Downsview Park Inc. (PDP) is self-financing, independent of government funding and is being designed to support environmental, social and economic sustainability. Of its 572 acres, 365 acres are committed to public open space and recreational use. Downsview Park engages the public through its year-round seasonal, cultural and special events, and educational and recreational programs. It is also home to the Downsview Park Sports Centre. These features promote and broaden awareness of the significant historical, environmental and cultural characteristics that make Downsview Park unique. Over a 1.2 million visits annually continues to establish Downsview Park as *a unique park for all people and a modern park for all seasons.*

-End-