

Senior Active Living - Featured Article

Gloria Lauris-Writer of Children's Books

Gloria Lauris is a Canadian writer living in Scarborough, Ontario, having moved recently from Ottawa. Ms Lauris has degrees in sociology and art history and is a retired government policy analyst, and as well being a long-time animal lover. Her creative writing is inspired by a combination of her education, extensive travel experiences, and general observations. She writes on various nonfiction topics such as animal welfare, travel, gardening and food. Her author's website is: www.gloria.lauris.ca.

Gloria's fiction writing includes penning children's middle-grade adventure stories with Ottawa colleague, Allan E Carty, who has degrees in psychology and education as well as a background in the military. They collaborated with second-generation illustrator Sarah Woronchak to create two books in the Backyard Buddies *Badventure* series, with a third book in the making. A *Badventure* is a bad adventure that turns out alright in the end.

The stories took form during the pandemic when seeing a half-tailed chipmunk in Gloria's backyard and wondering what might have happened to it. What if the chipmunk was friends with other creatures in the yard? That led to creating humorous family-friendly adventure stories about Canadian wildlife creatures like squirrels, chipmunks, birds and other animals including a rescued housecat, who all gather around the birdfeeder called Stickbird (as it had a small metal bird on a pole).

Gloria and Allan are writing stories they would have liked to have read as children themselves which include gentle messages about friendship, inclusion, teamwork and anti-bullying.

Their latest book also introduces basic concepts of forest ecology. Although the books are aimed at 8-12 year olds, they have found that adults seem to resonate with the characters as well. The books can be purchased on Amazon.ca.

See: <https://www.amazon.ca/Backyard-Buddies-Let-Badventures-Begin/dp/B0BPL1XSNC/>



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