

# Renowned author motivates Osoyoos children.

By Bruan Highley

Approximately 40 students from grades 5 and 6 were entertained and educated by a world-renowned author at the Osoyoos branch of the Okanagan regional library on April 18th. Lyn Hancock, author of fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children, was in Osoyoos as part of the 'Writers In Libraries Program', an initiative from the BC Ministry of Education. Born and raised in western Australia, Hancock has an obvious addiction to adventure, and uses her globe trotting experiences as fodder for her 18 published books, and countless published articles. Hitchhiking alone through Africa in 1960, a year of apartheid riots and bloodbaths in the Congo, trying to have a baby while crossing the Northwest Passage in a rubber boat, and wandering for 25 years with camera, notebook and backpack through northern BC, Yukon, NWT and Nunavut are just some of the escapades mentioned on her website. But Hancock's true gift is her ability to capture the imagination of children and, more importantly, to teach them to parlay that imagination into creativity. Hancock and illustrator Loraine Kemp are currently touring libraries and schools talking about their latest offering, *Tabasco, the Saucy Raccoon*. Like her previous books *Love Affair with a Cougar* and *There's a Seal in My Sleeping Bag*, her latest is the true story of her adventures with an unlikely companion. In her workshops, Hancock encourages children to write about what they know, see and experience. Hancock informed the students on several occasions that, "Books begin in backyards."

More of Lyn Hancock's exploits are at [www.lynhancock.com](http://www.lynhancock.com)



Author Lyn Hancock and Illustrator Loraine Kemp speak to students at the library in Osoyoos.

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