

of [on a local radio station] orphaned racoons," explains Hancock of the new addition to her family, "and the lady who won the contest said, 'paint the roofs of Vancouver with Tabasco sauce.'"

Hancock's latest addition to her growing list of animal anecdotes, is up for the Saskatchewan Young Reader's Choice Award, the Diamond Willow Award, which will fit right in with the dozen other books which were awarded various impressive literary acknowledgements over the years.

"For twenty-seven years I told stories of Tabasco's life in hundreds of classrooms across the world, to thousands of children," says Hancock of her latest book. "But, I always stopped before the last chapter...until now."

This adventurous author has done everything from school teaching to raising wildlife from seals to bears to cougars to sitting in an eagle's nest for nine hours. She's the Australian version of Goodall, Fossey and Birute.

"I wrote about all these animals, brought them to school—turned kid's lives on," says Hancock of her many adventures with animals.

With 19 books to her credit, this fascinating writer, not to mention actress, school teacher, photographer, journalist and wildlife expert, already has a mental list of her future works in mind. She'll be getting around to them as soon as she takes a breather from her daily schedule.....when-ever that may be.

For now, she and illustrator, Loraine Kemp, are keeping the young crowds

spellbound with Hancock's countless, published life adventures.

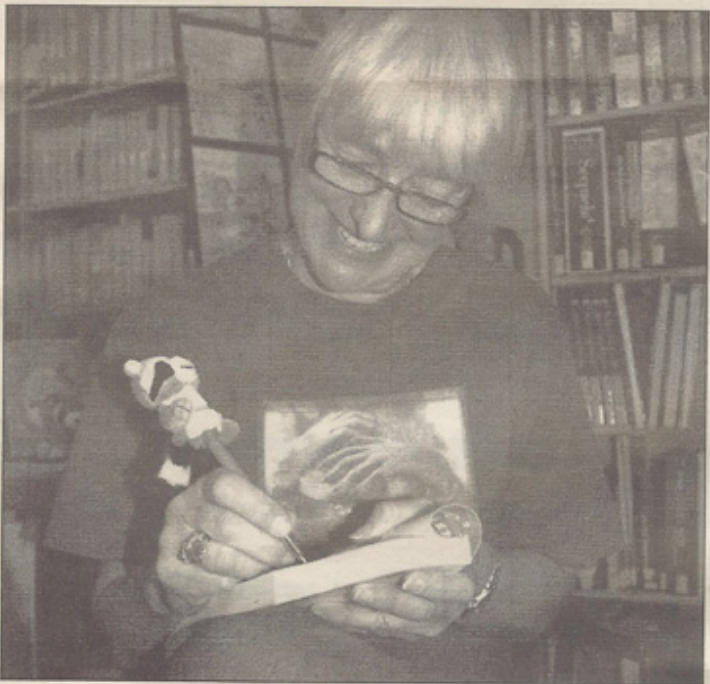
So, if and when you meet the tireless Lyn Hancock, and you ask her about any one of her infinitely colourful life adventures, all I can do is suggest that you pack a sleeping bag, a picnic basket and a tape recorder. (And just between you and I, you won't regret it).

Hancock is offering a Canada-wide contest for best illustration of "Tabasco, the Saucy Raccoon" in her role as Dr. Goesinta, the dentist. She urges all young artists from every age group to try their hand at illustrating her beloved Tabasco. Submissions may be in any size in any medium. Prize winners retain ownership, but they must allow their submissions to be used for educational purposes such as Lyn's school and library presentation. Prizes include special t-shirts, books, bottles of Tabasco Sauce and signed illustrations by Loraine Kemp. Judges will be the staff of the Comox Valley Dental Centre, Comox, B.C.

Submit illustrations to Lyn Hancock, 8270 Sabre Road, Lantzville, B.C., V0R 2H0 by May 28, 2007. Winners will be contacted by June 18. Be sure to include your name, age, home address, phone number, school and school address. Keep a copy as submissions will not be returned.

You can pick up a your very own copy of the book at the Trading Post in Hedley, the Image Emporium on Bridge Street and Okanagan Books in Penticton.

Log on to Lyn's website for her book tour itinerary at [www.lynhancock.com](http://www.lynhancock.com).



Hancock signs her latest book for an avid fan.

Carla Clark photo