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Check out my review of a truly unique children's book that takes place in a Canadian backyard!

Invaders Make BAD Neighbours: A Backyard Buddies Badventure

By Allan E. Carty and Gloria Lauris, with illustrations by Sarah Woronchak

The Backyard Buddies, a group of critters found in a suburban Ontario backyard are at it again in this second in a series – Invaders Make BAD Neighbours: A Backyard Buddies Badventure.

This children's book aimed at kids from eight to twelve is unique. It features Ontario wildlife with a plot that revolves around energy healing, forest ecology and the golden rule. The first book, Backyard Buddies – Let the Badventures Begin! introduced us to a backyard menagerie including a chipmunk, cat, squirrels, rodents, birds and raccoons. The critters embarked on three badventures – adventures that start out bad but eventually turn out fine.

This time around a groundhog, tabby cat and various insects also join in on the fun. The buddies tackle challenges including an ancient tree that is dying, a menacing mob of crows bent on vengeance, and animals with disabilities and injuries.

Can the group, led by a wise senior chipmunk with half a tail surmount these difficulties? The authors show us how they try with colourful characters, engaging dialogue, humour and clever wordplay. Lighthearted references to military operations and finding common ground make this book surprisingly relevant considering recent current events.



Like the first volume, this book has a colourful cover, appealing black and white illustrations and map by Sarah Woronchak, easy to read text, and a small-size format that is easy to hold. Keeping track of the numerous critters can be tricky at times so the cast of characters and a glossary are great references. Invaders Make BAD Neighbours: A Backyard Buddies Badventure by Allan E. Carty and Gloria Lauris is available on Amazon.ca and in Ottawa at Singing Pebbles Books and the Ottawa Public Library.

Invaders Make *BAD* Neighbours

A Backyard Buddies Badventure



Allan E. Carty & Gloria Lauris
Illustrated by Sarah Woronchak

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