



Beaver Tales is Henriette MacArthur's latest book.

Thamesford author releases second book - Beaver Tales

By Jennifer Vandermeer
Editor

When Grandpa starts forgetting the stories he's always told his grandson, it raises some questions for the young lad.

Beaver Tales, the second book by Thamesford author Henriette MacArthur, addresses the issue of aging and forgetfulness that can go along with it.

MacArthur gathered the information for her book while she was an educator with the Alzheimer Society. She also worked with people with Alzheimer Disease for many years and saw how children can be confused by what's happening to their loved ones.

She said she was careful not to specify Alzheimers or dementia in her new book, so that it maintains a generic

approach to addressing any questions a young person may have.

"People can use it for a broader range of circumstances," she said.

As with her first book, MacArthur addresses issues that may be sensitive and difficult for parents to talk about with their children. The first book, Henry and Harriet, talked about the death of a loved one. This book is now approaching its second printing.

"A lot of people say when subjects are serious, it's nice for kids to have a book because they can read it when they're feeling the emotions and they can read it as many times as they need," said MacArthur.

"It's a good place to start when you don't know how to approach something."

The fact that MacArthur's books have animal characters instead of humans

also helps a child to understand the subject, rather than try to identify with a picture of a person that may have no relevance to them.

"It removes them from the harshness of it all," she said.

MacArthur has two children of her own who have a lot of input into her books. The first book included a piece of artwork by her daughter, Carly. Beaver Tales includes words from son Connor: "Even though an apple tree may be getting old and weary, if it is taken care of, it will still produce good apples, even if not as many."

A book signing has been arranged for this Sat., Oct. 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Patina's in Ingersoll. Beaver Tales is available at Patina's, as well as Grampa's Attic in Ingersoll and through MacArthur's website www.morethanwordsbooks.ca.