



HAVE PEN (AND CAMERA), WILL TRAVEL

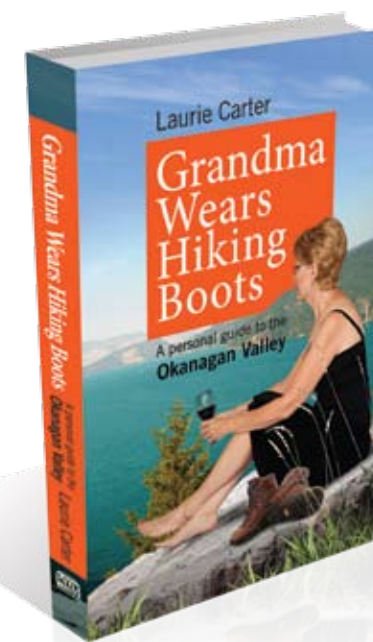
“For the last decade I’ve been writing and shooting photos about the Okanagan for magazine, newspaper and online articles,” says author Laurie Carter, who felt it was about time she pulled all her experiences together into a collection, to make them more permanent. Laurie’s latest book *Grandma Wears Hiking Boots: A personal guide to the Okanagan Valley* is the result.

Not your average guidebook with lists of places to see, this book

takes an experiential look at Valley attractions including hikes, tours, historic sites, family fun and more. She jokes that it should have been called *Grandma Wears Hiking Boots and Sneakers, Snowshoes and Skis, Flip-Flops and Terminally Gorgeous Heels*. Alas, there wasn’t room on the cover. Strong characters emerge in her stories and one reviewer has said the book “reads like a novel.” She hit upon the title after a brainstorming session when she recalled the old say-

ing “your mother wears army boots.” Packed full of some of her favourite places, Laurie says the hardest thing about writing the book was deciding what to leave out—like garden tours and more farmers’ markets. A devoted foodie, she did find room for an impressive list of restaurant reviews from street vendors to elegant dining. While she doesn’t profess to be a wine connoisseur, “what I know about wine can fit in a paragraph,” she gets out with her husband

PHOTO BY BRUCE KEMP



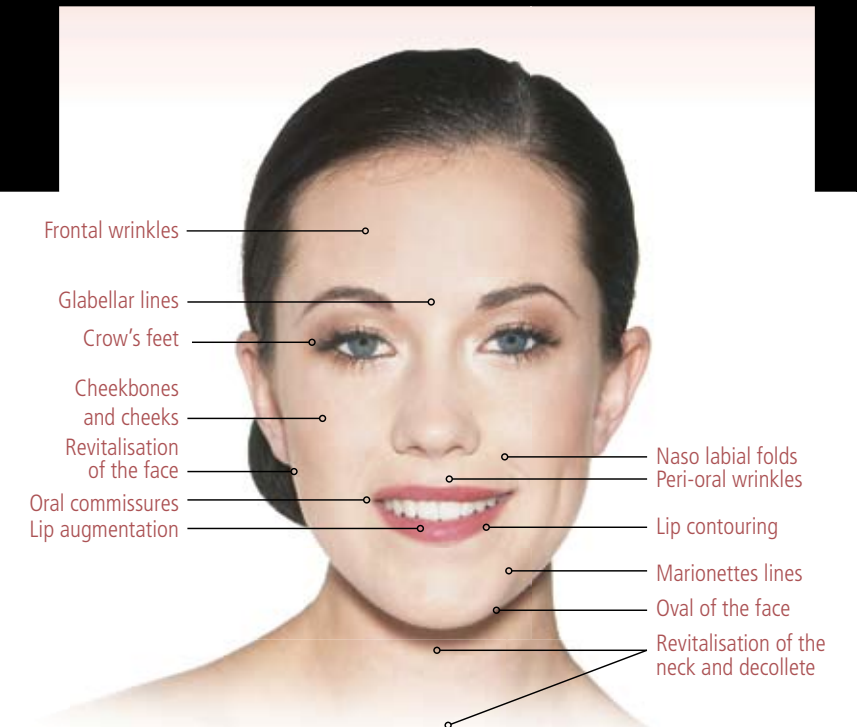
Bruce Kemp (who does know the scene) to enjoy all that Okanagan wineries have to offer and to meet the people behind the scenes.

Her zippy style and self-inflicted humour make this collection of stories a lively page-turner for both armchair travellers and Okanagan explorers, while colour photos and maps make it a handy reference. Laurie makes no apologies if your experience doesn’t match her own.

With the first in her series of *Grandma Wears Hiking Boots* books under her belt, Laurie says she’s looking forward to writing about her adventures across Canada in book two. The third volume will feature her treks on five continents (maybe six or even seven by the time she gets to writing it).

Determined to keep control of the look and feel of her full colour books, Laurie started Little White Publishing. With the first book hitting local stores in time for Christmas, we asked what was the best part of the publishing experience? “Opening the box and smelling the paper and ink,” says Laurie. “There is nothing like the smell of a new book—and when it’s your own, wow!” —Karen Slivar

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