

https://www.timescolonist.com > islander > geoff-johns... Geoff Johnson: Island author's series takes young readers on ...

Feb 27, 2022 — Cowichan Valley author Teresa Schapansky's Along The Way series is an informative and colourfully illustrated set of little books geared ...

It has never been easy to find children's books that are high interest/low vocabulary and that at the same time cover Canada's amazing complexity of inter-relating geography and history alongside our hodgepodge of cultures. So where to begin looking for age- and readingability-appropriate books that will also engage kids with such a complex topic as Canada?

An excellent start would be Cowichan Valley author Teresa Schapansky's "Along The Way" series, an informative and colourfully illustrated set of little books geared toward children between the ages of five and 12. Through the character of Albert the Dinosaur (Albertosaurus), the author introduces readers to intriguing facts about Canada's history as far back as the Mesozoic and Cretaceous eras, along with uncomplicated explanations about Canada's still emerging geography and cultures. Young readers are introduced to Grade 1 student Jade, older sister to brother Dorian, and their magical friend Albert the dinosaur who becomes the author's voice and takes Jade and Dorian, along with his young readers, on a tour across Canada's 10 provinces and three territories.

High/low books like the "Along The Way" series can help build reading fluency, vocabulary, background knowledge and interest in reading. The very best high/low books provide these supports invisibly, so young readers don't feel that they are reading "books for babies." Research tells us that early readers are often given books to read that are on their frustration level, only feeding the "I can't" mantra. We also sometimes make the mistake of handing them books that seem babyish and that turn kids off reading at all. But as poet Maya Angelou wrote: "Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of a child's deep and continuing needs, is good for that child." Geoff Johnson is a former superintendent of schools.

The Times Colonist full article here:

https://www.timescolonist.com/islander/geoff-johnson-island-authorsseries-takes-young-readers-on-journey-through-canada-5106428





The Along the Way Books book series has 12 books all together, introducing kids to Canada through the adventures, activities, and trivia presented in each book by a dinosaur named Albert - an Albertosaurus from (you guessed it!) Alberta. The first book starts off in his province before moving to some of the other provinces to give us a west to east coast (and north!) adventure.

Albert presents tidbits of neat information in short, nottoo-complex language that kids can read for themselves as they gain confidence in their reading skills or that makes easy to listen to if you are reading aloud to them. There is also a section in each book which focuses on something else as well. Book one talks about technology, book two about the ice age, book three about the different cultures we find in Canada, etc. You can expect to cover weather and natural phenomenon.

The black and white illustrations are cute and engaging – sometimes with little comic-style speech bubbles - on almost every page. That helped to keep my kids interacting with each book. I think the author has done a really great job of creating a series of books that do a quick introduction to different parts of Canada combined with the ever popular topic of dinosaurs and some other relatable stories about kids. We are happy to have these on our bookshelf. Lisa Marie Fletcher, the Canadian Homeschooler

The Canadian Homeschooler full article here:

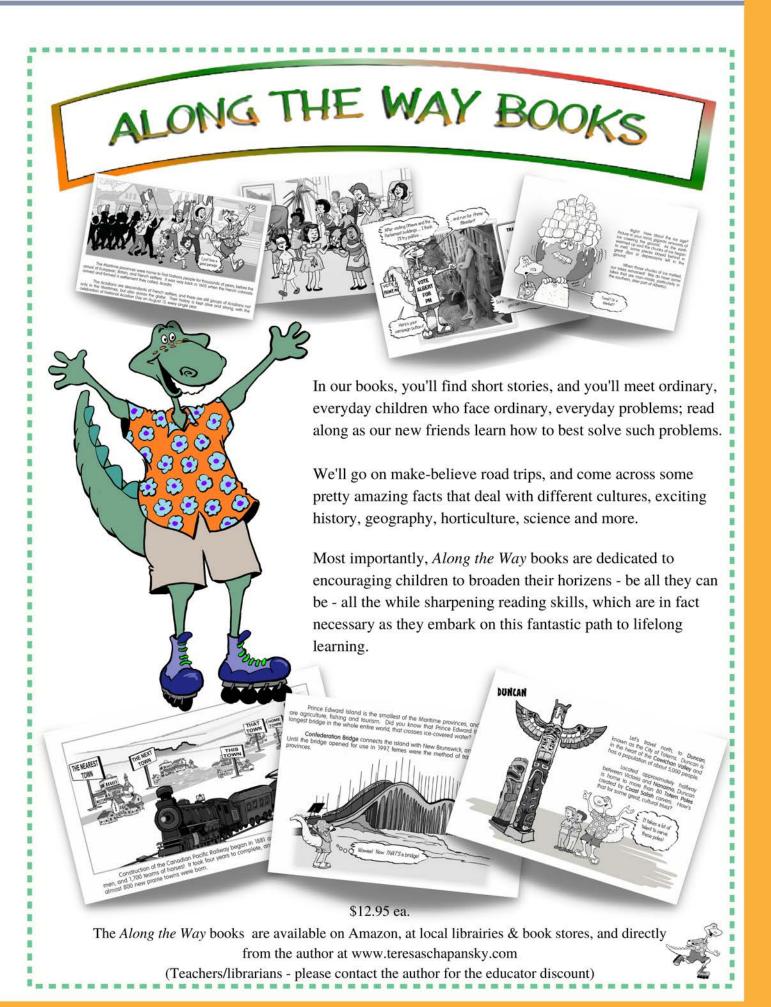
https://thecanadianhomeschooler.com/along-the-way-books-a-bookreview?

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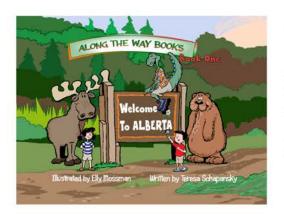








The Along the Way books are available on Amazon, at local book stores, and directly from the author at www.teresaschapansky.com



Along the Way - Book 1 - Welcome to Alberta!

In the first book in this series, Albert wastes no time introducing himself and his two young friends, Jade and Dorian, who are about to discover that they will have to move away, and learn to deal with changes. Tag along with Albert as our prehistoric tour guide, learn some cool facts about Alberta, find some cool places to stop along the Yellowhead Highway, and test your skills with our very first Dino Trivia!



Along the Way - Book 2 - Welcome to the Glacier Express!

Join Albert as he takes us from Edmonton, Alberta all the way to the Saskatchewan border, and discover some cool places along the way! Find the answers to Dino Trivia, and learn about the brr... ice age and how it still affects us today. Meet more of Albert's friends, and follow along as they learn the true meaning of elbow grease!



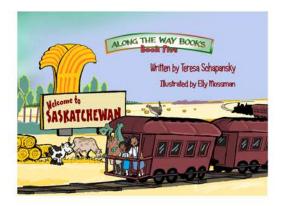
Along the Way - Book 3 - Welcome to British Columbia!

Albert digs right into the answers to book two's Dino Trivia, and then describes some of the many cultures and fun traditions that make up North America. Our third short story is about Ryker and Rhylan, who learn that they are about to have new neighbours! Albert starts this road trip in Victoria, British Columbia, where construction of the Trans Canada Highway began in the year, 1912.



Along the Way - Book 4 - Welcome to the Salish Sea!

Discovering the answers to our third Dino Trivia is Albert's first task, and then find out why people may have left their homes in other countries, to move to North America. In this short story, we'll catch up with our friends, Jade and Dorian, and find out why they had to call 911. Albert takes us on a fun boat ride from Vancouver Island to the mainland, and we discover some pretty interesting facts, along the way!



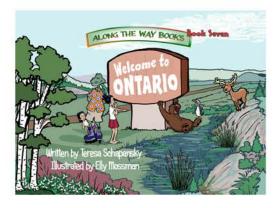
Along the Way - Book 5 - Welcome to Saskatchewan!

As usual, Albert makes finding the answers to the previous book's Dino Trivia fun! We learn a little about the arrival of the railroad, and in our short story, we discover how it impacted in a positive manner, the way of life of our new friends, Hailey and Emma, and their family. On our road trip, we hitch a ride with Albert on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and visit some really cool places that can be found in Saskatchewan!



Along the Way - Book 6 - Welcome to Manitoba!

In colourful detail, Albert gives us the answers to Dino Trivia, and then jumps right into describing the different weather systems we experience in North America. In our short story, we find out who moves next door to Ryker and Rhylan. Albert takes us on a journey from Hudson Bay to West Hawk Lake in Manitoba, and introduces us to bugs and wildlife that are native to this province.



Along the Way - Book 7 - Welcome to Ontario!

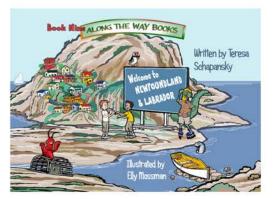
Find the answers to the Dino Trivia from the previous book, and then find out the roles insects and bugs play in our environment. Albert says that they are not all just pesky critters, after all! In this short story we'll meet Wren and Kloee, and follow along as Wren learns all about trust and responsibility. Learn about each of the Great Lakes, and have fun traveling with Albert from Toronto to Ottawa.



Along the Way - Book 8 - Welcome to Quebec!

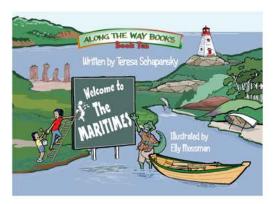
Naturally, Albert mixes fun with education as we discover the answers to book seven's Dino Trivia! We learn a little bit about the history of the French language in Quebec, and we even find out where the name, "Canada" came from. In our short story, we'll find out what our friends, Callum and Kilee have been up to! This Albert-style road trip teaches us about interesting history, and takes us to some pretty neat places in Quebec!

The Along the Way books are available on Amazon, at local book stores, and directly from the author at www.teresaschapansky.com



Along the Way - Book 9 - Welcome to Newfoundland & Labrador!

Learning the answers to book eight's Dino Trivia is the best place to begin! Albert explains the differences between Baleen whales and toothed whales, and about some of the species that live in this province. Join Rhylan and Ryker as they visit their grandparents for a whole week, and overcome a few fears along the way. We learn why Newfoundland and Labrador is known as the Seabird Capital of North America.



Along the Way - Book 10 - Welcome to the Maritime Provinces!

After checking out the answers to Dino Trivia, we're going to visit the three provinces that make up the Maritimes; New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, and find out a little about their different cultures, industries and histories. We'll even discover where the longest covered bridge in the world, and the oldest operating lighthouse in Canada are located! In our short story, we'll catch up with Wren and Kloee, and we'll learn a little bit about the differences between visible and invisible disabilities.



Along the Way - Book 11 - Welcome to the Yukon & Northwest Territories!

Lace up your shoes... or winter boots! After a little game of true and false with Dino Trivia, Albert is going to take us to the chilly Arctic Region. We'll discover facts about the Northwest Territories and Yukon, along with the meaning of the midnight sun, polar moon, and more! We'll find out where the highest mountain in Canada is located, and learn about not only the advantages, but also the disadvantages of the famous Klondike Gold Rush. Jade and Dorian will be celebrating multi-cultural day at school, and we'll learn about their very own cultures - that until now, they knew nothing at all about!



Along the Way - Book 12- Welcome to Nunavut!

Albert has had a blast, as he's been celebrating Canada on this fun and educational cross-country road trip! From the provinces to the territories - we've roller bladed, driven highways, rode the trains, and crossed oceans, as we've discovered some pretty cool facts and points of interest in each of Canada's provinces and territories, Along the Way.

Tag along with Albert as our prehistoric tour guide - discover our biggest territory of all, catch up with our friends, Kilee and Callum, and find out the answers to book eleven's Dino Trivia



Introducing the

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Author



Teresa Schapansky proudly celebrates all things Canadian with the 12-volume *Along the Way* children's series, narrated by her prehistoric dino-friend, Albert, by taking young readers on an educational and entertaining, cross-Canada road trip.

Schapansky has also recently released *One Little Coin* (published by the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association), the ideal complement to her best-selling, easy to read *Coinkeeper: the Avery Chronicles* - a magical, coinbased series for new learners, and struggling or reluctant readers.

Her work also includes three juvenile fiction novels and a family-friendly memoir, based on the life of a local immigrant. She has won the Canada Book Award, Readers' Favourite 5 Star Seal, and Literary Classics Seal of Approval.

The author lives in the beautiful Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. For more information, please visit: www.teresaschapansky.com or contact her directly at teresaschapansky@gmail.com.

Illustrator



Elly Mossman lives in the Cowichan Valley, Vancouver Island, BC, and is the author/illustrator of the ongoing graphic novel-style kids' book series *Grampa Was an Alien*. Other books include *The Ballad of Blue Eagle Bill;* the graphic novel, *Nmp-Chks & Numskuls; Wait, WHAT?*, a semi-autobiography' and *The Baker From Krabbendam*, a biography.

Mossman has won 4 awards in the annual Canadian Community Newspaper Awards for her creative editorial cartoons, three years consecutively, and served as judge in the same organization. Other works include illustrating *One Little Coin*, and most recently, illustrating for author, David Mossman. Serious oil paintings, graphite and conté drawings, and portraits, both human and animal are also included in her body of work.

Sharing Mossman's life is husband Bill, who on occasion, serves as her inspiration for characters in her books (*Nmp-Chks & Numskuls, The Ballad of Blue Eagle Bill*). For more information, please visit:

www.grampawasanalien.com or contact her directly at kribldor@gmail.com.



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