The Borelians Community Theatre’s first production of the new season, Alice In Wonderland goes on stage this month at Town Hall 1873 in Port Perry.

The Borelians are presenting the Eva La Gallienne/Florida Friebus adaption of Lewis Carroll’s Alice In Wonderland and Through The Looking Glass.

Originally written in 1932 and revised in 1947, this version was last seen on Broadway in 1984 with a celebrity-studded cast which included Richard & Kate Burton.

The Borelians’ production of Alice In Wonderland is a classic fantasy, featuring a cast of 33 adults and children drawn from across Durham, with many familiar Borelians portraying the many characters of the story, including Michael Serres as The Mad Hatter/Humpty Dumpty, Aidan Serres as the Cheshire Cat, Andy Williamson as the King of Hearts, and Howard Linscott as the White Knight.

The role of Alice is being shared by newcomer Shelby Cunliffe (Oshawa Little Theatre Youth Group) and Borelian Marisa DeSousa.

Other notable characters are Joe Bezubiak as the Mock Turtle, Graeme Melcher as the Gryphon, Breanne Twining as the White Rabbit, Keegan Serres as the Caterpillar, Trish Blackburn as the Queen of Hearts and Marg Partington and Cait Thompson as the White and Red Queens.

A talented artistic team, including director Carey Nicholson, music director Kevin Drennan and production designer Jennifer Hardie will bring Alice’s whimsy and charm to life through fanciful staging, movement, songs and costumes. Visually delightful and full of Lewis Carroll’s prose and poetry, Alice is a production that is sure to enchant the whole family!

Alice In Wonderland will be performed at 8 pm, Thursday to Saturday evenings, October 18 - 20 and 25 - 27, with 2 pm matinees on Saturdays.

Tickets for Alice In Wonderland are available at Henshall’s Clothiers, Port Perry (905 985-1965), toll free at 1 866-808-2006, or online at www.starticketing.com.

The Borelians are also sponsors of EyeGo to the Arts (www.eyego.org) offering reduced ticket prices for high school students.

For more information on Alice in Wonderland or the Borelians, please visit www.borelians.org.
Mike has two objectives for next season. One is to compete in the "Open Men’s" division, where he would be competing against all the best skiers, regardless of age. And he’d also like to compete at the “Junior Masters” event at Calloway Gardens in Georgia next May.

As if those goals aren’t lofty enough, Mike already has his sights set on one more target. Should slalom skiing become an Olympic event in time for the 2012 Olympics, Mike says he’d like to be on the Canadian team. “I will train with that as my goal,” he said.

Currently Mike is rated No. 1 in Canada for the “Boys Three Division”, for young men between the ages of 14-17 years of age.

Not to be outdone by his son, Dave continues to train and he competes in most of the same events that his son enters.

Once again this summer he’s proven his skills winning gold medals in both the Provincial and National championships. Dave first set a new Canadian “Men’s Five” slalom record in 2006, then broke his own record twice during this past summer.

Both Mike and Dave train from early summer to late fall. Early in their careers, they trained on a course set up on Lake Scugog, just south of Westshore Marina. They have since set up a course for training near the family cottage at Buckhorn.

“The average we are out on the course practising three or four times a week during the summer” Dave says.

For now, Mike is attending his Grade 12 classes at Port Perry High School, but he’s looking forward to the end of the semester when he’ll travel to Florida to spend the the next five months honing his slalom skills. While there, he will be working on an exotic bird farm when not flying across the water training for the next season of racing.

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**Metropolitan Conversion**

The approximate figures when converted from metric into feet and inches:

- 250 meters equals 820 ft., 2.5 in.
- 249.655 meters equals 819 ft., 1.0 in.
- 250.06 meters equals 820 ft., 5.0 in.

Note: Based on these calculations Scugog is about 14” lower than the set navigation level.
October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Help to educate women about the importance of early breast cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment.

Annual mammography screenings can detect breast cancer early and are the best chance women have for beating this deadly disease.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and falls only second to lung cancer as a leading cause of cancer death.

Encourage every woman you know to schedule a mammography screening for herself today. It could save her life.

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197 Queen Street, Port Perry                   |
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Over Her Shoulder

DESIGNER HANDBAGS

Throughout the month of October, purchase a Kathy Van Zeeland or Baby Phat Handbag and we will donate $10.00 to the Canadian Breast Cancer Society.

183 Casimir St., Port Perry                     |
905-982-0629                                    |
Marg Snider-McGrath is passionate about the efforts that have gone into the Reflection Park project located on Queen Street in the heart of Port Perry.

What started as an initiative to make Prince Albert’s history students connect with the past, “a way to make it more real for them” says Marg, blossomed to include not only those history students but every single child from JK to grade eight in 9 schools across Scugog Township.

Chances are if your child was enrolled in an elementary school between November 2006 and June 2007, they were a first-hand contributor in this local historical community event.

Marg’s vision of the memorial park, was as a place to “reflect on the people who fought to make our world as it is today, but also think of the future.”

This vision has been transposed from concept to reality under the creative direction of Bonnie Thomson, a local mosaic artist. She has been responsible for guiding over 2,000 children in the creation of a pebble mosaic to be interpreted as a dried riverbed. The children’s role in this project was imperative. The kids, in particular from grades 7 and 8, quite often get a bad wrap, which in Marg’s experience, is most unfortunate.

She goes on to say, “they have so many great ideas and I thought I’d really like the community to see that kids do care, they care about their community.”

Reflection Park is the kind of hands-on project that can, through active contribution, plant the seed of positive citizenship within the youth of Scugog.

Unforeseen setbacks, financial struggles and varied obstacles are to blame for Reflection Park’s production pace but construction has managed to progress, albeit slowly at times, towards its inevitable completion.

“Bonnie and I have often said our hope is that as these kids get older they will bring their kids and grandkids back to the park to say, I worked on this” Marg explains.

The spirit and pride of the community towards this undertaking is unmistakable and will continue to live on long after its final unveiling. However there is still a lot to achieve, including more landscaping representative of the nine participant schools, plaques, benches and trash containers, just to name a few.

The elementary schools are well aware of Reflection Park, especially in the last year with their active participation in the project. But Marg says it’s the local residents, the general public that need to be acquainted with this new addition to their downtown and the benefits that accompany it.

Please turn to page 15
More than 2,000 students take part in park project

Continued from page 14

Reflection Park is designed to become a central rest stop for tourists and locals, a new venue and staging area to showcase the likes of theatre groups, Art in the Park, folk festivals and music not to mention a great place for educators to teach their students about civic duty and Remembrance Day.

The students who started on this journey with Marg four years ago, are now in grade 12 and with her ever-positive outlook Marg likens this journey with her favourite research project analogy of an iceberg.

The visible tip represents a small portion of the entire iceberg and would not exist if it were not for what’s underneath, supporting it.

“For the last four years this is where we’ve been and we’ve been getting closer to the surface, but now we’ve broken through, and we need the community to help us get to the tip of the iceberg because we’re so close...” says Marg.

She feels in order to keep the park from standing stagnant, the support of Scugog residents will become essential, and anticipates future fundraising efforts to complete the project.

Marg is in effect cultivating the concept that each person plays a role within a community and it is by working together that great things can be achieved and limitations overcome.

Reflection Park is a fitting memorial, bridging one person’s vision to honour the past with the collective efforts of our future, the children.

Anyone interested in learning about the Reflection Park project can get more information at: reflectionparkportperry@hotmail.com - or at Meta4 Contemporary Craft Gallery on Queen St., Port Perry.

By Chris DeClute
The Animal Guard Society supports ‘man’s best friend’

It’s hard to resist the adorable puppy faces of mother and daughter Yorkshire Terriers Abby and Hailey as they cuddle up together in the bright sunshine. This duo of friendly pups is the latest addition to the family of orphan dogs at The Animal Guardian Society (TAGS), and they couldn’t be a more picture perfect example of canine bliss.

It has been 20 years of hard work and endless determination for the volunteers at The Animal Guardian Society (TAGS) – a non-profit charitable dog rescue organization that places dogs in foster care until permanent, loving homes can be found. Envisioning the building of a safe and nurturing environment for dogs to take up shelter, Kathy Asling founded the organization in 1987 with great optimism for its potential. However, time has proved that as the lack of public knowledge and interest towards the issue remains unchanged, building a haven for homeless dogs can be nothing more than a dream. Until proper financial and voluntary support is offered, the organization continues to rely on temporary foster homes to provide the care and affection these dogs need to survive.

Among the many dogs up for adoption, Jake and Brandy are two adorable and healthy miniature schnauzers who have been placed in foster care after being dropped off by their owner, who could not provide them with the minor dental care they require. Gentle and good-natured, together, they would be a great addition to any home – even a young family.

“We really take the time to ensure that the dogs and their potential owners are compatible with one another,” explains TAGS event coordinator and volunteer Emilie Gassien. “We conduct a home visit, where we bring the dog to interact with their possible adopters and we also do a trial visit, where the dog will come and stay with the interested adopter for up to a week. We provide crates, food, bowls and leashes and at any point the dog can be picked up and brought back to foster care.”

Emilie also adds that all dogs have been spayed/neutered, micro-chipped, come with up-to-date shots and pet insurance and an included eight week obedience class with Kathy. Also, they are completely covered for food and medical needs by TAGS.

As an organization that depends solely on donations made from the public, the volunteers at TAGS are encouraging you to lend your support. Their annual Cornroast and Barbeque Fundraiser was held in September and, as always, drew together crowds of animal lovers for a day of celebration. Every year, the day is filled with plenty of fun, doggy-friendly activities, such as scavenger hunts and wiener-eating contests, and of course, it includes a delicious feast of classic barbeque foods.

Dogs are in absolute heaven as they get full run of a fenced-in one acre property

Dogs are in absolute heaven as they get full run of a fenced-in one acre property

Dogs are in absolute heaven as they are granted full run of a fenced-in, one acre property, while their human companions always enjoy the interesting items offered up during the silent auction.

Also up and coming is TAGS Halloween themed walkathon in October supporting their “Trixie Fund,” which benefits older dogs in need of careful medical attention. For information on this event and more, visit their website at www.animal-guardian.org.

As always, the organization is looking for volunteers to help out with the many tasks that are required to assist with adoption processes and fundraising events. If you have any interest in helping out with the event or volunteering for the organization, be sure to call TAGS today. More than anything, if you think you can provide a loving and protective home for Jake and Brandy, Abby and Hailey, or any of their other canine friends living in foster homes, give them a call. With your support, The Animal Guardian Society can continue to make a difference for the countless dogs in need of a second chance at life.

By Christina Coughlin

PICTURE: Volunteer and devoted animal lover, Emilie Gassien, holds TAGS recent foster additions Abby and Hailey. Both mother and daughter Yorkshire Terriers are looking for a caring owner and a place to call home.
Kitty Kaos

There is one fork left out of BOTH cutlery drawers. Sock availability is at an all time low and it’s looking sparse in the fridge. Hmmmm… let’s get a cat!!!

I truly believe people experience temporary moments of - for lack of a better word - craziness. A moment when the actual reality of your life is temporarily suspended in your immediate memory and within that split second a seed is planted. For me it was getting a cat.

We have friends on Chandler Road who had a bunch of kittens – barn cats, fine. Over time and regular exposure something weakened in my dog favouring personality and now, yes we have a kitten (Boots).

This kitten is OODLES of fun!

Boots likes to pounce across my keyboard to attack the mouse pointer on the screen (I actually had to write this section twice due to involuntary deletion by you know who!).

Boots likes to attack our dog’s tail (150 lb malamute mix); this begins a chain reaction of mentalness around here with both animals running the marathon mile… difficult on wood floors.

It’s ok, really, I would go so far as to say it’s amusing BUT there are some things I was unaware of with cats. Did you know cats like to wake up at 3:30 in the morning, hunt you down and:
- Attack your toe if it’s sticking out?
- Groom your head???
- Play with you fingers and chew on your rings?
- Sit on your neck?

Honestly the list goes on and on and quite frankly I am not OVERLY enthusiastic at that time in the morning and have no interest in sharing my neck real estate with anyone… ever. Soooo, you devise ways to gently urge the kitten not to use you as a tree and climb you just because you are close to it and standing still.

There’s the water bottle, very effective to chase the little bugger out of my fern and off the kitchen table (kinda fun too) but I don’t abuse this device.

There’s the trampoline, a quick foot flick from underneath the covers will send kitty up about a foot in the air and temporarily relieve its attack on your sleeping body parts (pretty darn funny to watch the aerial act!).

Aren’t cats supposed to be mellow, solitary creatures with scattered moments of patting requirements? Is it possible that I managed to pick the only cat in the world with dog-like tendencies?

Now I know this sounds whiny but truth be told we are all really enjoying this new experience. Mornings have taken on a whole new urgency and it has nothing to with MY mandatory coffee requirement.

Waking up is easy with the cat on my head, the dog tap dancing urgently on the landing and the fish circling frantically in it’s bowl all anxiously awaiting breakfast, but that’s ok - I like it.

Did I really need another animal to clean up after, another chore? Not really, but I wouldn’t change a thing. Yes the house is in shambles and we are eating leftovers with our fingers and wearing mismatched socks. Things could be worse.

And NO, we’re not getting a hamster!
Trish Holman-Bender and Pat Sparling spend a lot of time together these days discussing a shared heritage. They both live in Prince Albert homes built by Trish’s ancestors.

James Holman was one of ten children of Rev. Joseph Holman and his wife Rebecca Symons. The Holmans came from Cornwall, England to settle in Haldimand Township in 1831. James attended the First Baptist Church in Grafton. Here he met and fell in love with Sabra Unger and the couple agreed to marry and to settle in Reach Township.

Before their marriage, James made his way to Prince Albert to work as a wagon and carriage maker. In his spare time he looked for some property on which to build a house while Sabra stayed in Haldimand Township.

He eventually bought an acre lot on the east side of what is now Old Simcoe Road and just south of King Street.

During that time the young couple exchanged letters. Some of this correspondence has survived and is now treasured by James and Sabra’s great-great-granddaughter Trish Holman-Bender.

James’ letters are surprisingly romantic for this supposedly stoic Victorian period. On November 10, 1844 he wrote “…I seem to have you in my arms sometimes but I think if I had you now I should squeeze you rather hard my dear. If only I could have one kiss from your lips it would do my heart good.”

He continued his love letters to Sabra on a regular basis and on July 6, 1845 he wrote, “…very often I place myself as if I had you in my arms and then feel the chills of affection run over me.”

His letters always closed with romantic yearnings for her. Sabra’s replies, however, seem remarkably unromantic. She gave accounts of happenings at home and in the community but the closest she could get to a semblance of affection was to conclude her correspondence with “to my True Friend.”

In his correspondence James had given progress reports on the building of the gothic styled...
home, naming the builder Gleason. He also mentions the post-
master James Leitch.

By November 9, 1845 he reported that the house was almost
finished, but “...I can't get the mason to plaster it for me this fall.
It is almost finished otherwise so it will be comfortable anyhow.”

Sabra married her “true friend” on January 1, 1846. The happy
couple made their way to the house that James had built in Prince
Albert. He later built his own wagon workshop on the property.

In their Old Simcoe Road home the Holmans lived comfortably
and started their own family. In 1850 Sabra gave birth to a son
James Corsham Holman.

When young James had grown to maturity he bought property
immediately to the south and built his home there in the 1870s. This home is now 13815 Old Simcoe Road and has remained in
the Holman family. Trish, young James’ great granddaughter, lives
here with her husband Al Bender.

The home of James and Sabra at 13855 Old Simcoe Road stayed
in the Holman family until the 1960s and was eventually bought
by Dave Sparling. Dave and his wife Pat have restored the home,
maintaining many of the original features.

As befitted comfortable homes of the period it has ten foot ceil-
ings and generous baseboards and abounds with pine throughout.
This has all been faithfully restored by Dave and Pat.

Letters and photos of the Holman family provide the basis of
hours of leisure time discussing a past which she now shares with
Dave and Pat Sparling. That shared past is also an important part
of our community’s heritage.
After being named to the Mayor’s Honour Roll earlier this year for his commitment to teaching his students the value of community engagement, David Robinson was quick to point out he was just doing his job.

“As a teacher, I want to focus on giving my students a good experience in Grade 10 before I lose them,” he says.

It was this desire to teach his students that became the genesis of Dave’s business classes’ involvement. Around 1994, government funding established a program for students at risk.

In order to hold their attention and interest, Dave arranged for the group to organize that year’s Santa Claus parade with the Chamber of Commerce. “Companies got involved and the kids could put their volunteer efforts and life experiences on their resumes along with their grades.”

The history trips originated by less conventional means. In 1992, Dave visited 125 communities across Canada as National President when the Kinsmen Club of Canada created the ‘Proud to be Canadian’ Tour. This government-sponsored initiative placed flags in the hands of many Canadians, inspired our Olympic uniforms (hence Roots wear) that year and captured the Canadian imagination in a surge of national spirit.

Trips to Juno Beach, Hong Kong and the latest to Vimy Ridge (2007) have brought Canadian history to life for many young people.

“Of course I’m honoured to have my community recognize my work, but the true honour is to share with students that magical moment when the facts sink in. I get to be part of their ‘get-it’ moment thousands of times,” Dave explains. The Vimy Ridge event drew students from the inner-city as well as a busload from the Yukon.

“My great disappointment was for those students who stood waiting for four hours to not even be acknowledged by their Prime Minister for their contribution to the event,” says Dave.

“But they made the highlights: the ceremony with student readings and a wreath-laying accompanied by the Highland Creek Pipes & Drums playing Amazing Grace and the parade of 5,000 students ‘over the hill’ (2,500 of which were Dave’s) bearing the Vimy flag (the Peace Tower flag).”

Peter Mansbridge of CBC said that in all his years of broadcasting, he’d never seen anything like that display. And Port Perry students led the march.

With the next trip, to Ortona, Italy in the wings for November 2008, Dave is determined to expose students to more Canadian war efforts, and to show Veterans that “the forgotten battle is not forgotten”.

Please turn to ‘Ortona’ on page 21

Dave Robinson sets sights on taking 6,000 students to Ortona, Italy

“What makes this happen isn’t me, it’s about the kids”... Dave Robinson

Vimy Memorial
During this organizational stage, Dave will be visiting schools across the country (Manitoba, Alberta, PEI, Newfoundland). It takes two years to plan each trip and this time entails meetings with Vatican officials. “What makes this happen isn’t me; it’s about the kids,” he says.

For Ortona, 6,000 students will each be matched with a Canadian soldier that died. Each student will trace three handprints across a fabric square. They will personalize the centre one with their own names and artwork. The left one will be filled in by students with information researched about a Canadian fallen soldier (at Ortona). Then the right print will be personalized by a Canadian soldier stationed in Afghanistan.

These squares will be assembled around the Peace Tower flag (at centre square) and the giant quilt will be paraded during the Ortona ceremonies. The quilt will then return to hang in the Canadian War Museum.

Details about the trip are available at the Grenadier in Port Perry. If adults are interested in accompanying the students, they will be treated to an additional vineyard tour as well as a Tuscan cooking class.

“It’s very gratifying to see parents sit with their kids and research history that they were never taught back then,” explains Dave. “And because the kids do so much of the work, my life has really been what Forrest Gump called ‘a box of chocolates’. Every day is new and different.”

By Barbara Hunt
The Port Perry Hospital needs your support in obtaining a CAT Scan. Operation Hospital Watch, a Scugog volunteer organization, is hoping that the general public will make sure their candidates in the coming provincial election are aware of the need and will support the acquisition of a CAT Scan for the local Hospital.

A CAT Scan can diagnose disorders in many parts of the body including the lungs, digestive system and the brain. It can be very useful for emergencies, especially for strokes and severe head injuries. It is an important tool in diagnosing patients for acute care.

Doctors have found that in emergencies such as heart attacks, strokes, severe accidents or even having a baby, one of the most critical periods is the time taken to get to the closest hospital for correct diagnosis. For instance, a patient with a stroke can be given clot dissolving medication if they are diagnosed within three hours. However a CT scan must be carried out to ensure that the condition is a clot and not internal bleeding, as clot dissolving medication can cause further damage or even death to a patient with internal bleeding.

“Having a CT available for this kind of rapid and accurate diagnosis will, in the near future, be the expected standard care,” said Dr. John Stewart of Port Perry.

Several cases have arisen where trauma patients arriving at the Port Perry hospital have been sent to Oshawa or elsewhere for a CT and have received treatment too late. Another factor raising concern is the use of hospital staff. If a patient has to be sent to Oshawa by ambulance for a CT the patient has to be accompanied by a nurse and sometimes a doctor. This means that critical staff are taken away from their duties at Port Perry. Dr. Sue Shepherd says, early diagnosis is essential in the effective treatment of strokes and the most accurate and fastest diagnosis for treatment is made through the CT.

Dr. Bill Cohoon stated “the community is making a great effort to raise funds to provide this most essential piece of equipment to enhance care access in our own hospital, now we need political support to make sure that it happens.”

Operation Hospital Watch is requesting that those attending candidate meetings for the upcoming provincial elections make sure the candidates are aware of this need.

By Paul Arculus