

# Elora Community Theatre Newsletter

April, 2017

## Alice In Wonderland

*Get your tickets now!*



Ok, so you thought this was a show only for kids...think again..and read on.....

*continued on page 2*

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## Auditions-Shakespeare in the Park

*If you missed out on the auditions last week, don't worry...you may get another chance..stay tuned for additional dates to be announced by directors David Tanner and Deb Stanson for the Shakespeare in the Park Series this summer! Many actors needed! Thanks to those who auditioned. I hear you were a talented group!*

Info: [dtanner@sentex.net](mailto:dtanner@sentex.net)

[debstanson@gmail.com](mailto:debstanson@gmail.com)

## ECT Auditions June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5th for Christmas Carol

### Auditions

Sunday June 4 and Monday June 5

7:00 pm

Call back

Wednesday June 7, 7:00 pm ECT Workshop

### Rehearsal Schedule:

Sunday afternoon, Monday and Wednesday evenings

ShowDates: December 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 2017

Friday, Saturday 8 pm

Saturday, Sunday 2 pm

Move into theatre Monday, November 27, 2017

Info: [debstanson@gmail.com](mailto:debstanson@gmail.com)

With a cast ranging in age from 13 to 87, this production of the much loved classic *Alice in Wonderland* is being prepared to be enjoyed for people of all ages. You don't want to miss the fantastic set pieces, colourful costumes, and a multi-talented cast that will treat the audience to life lessons, laughter and music just because you're not a 'kid' (at least chronologically) anymore!!



Director, Jennifer Zirk, welcomes Laura Hunter to the cast as the beautiful White Queen. Audience will remember enjoying Laura's performance in several of ECT's past productions. And Laura helps out in other ways too by being on our ECT Board where she patiently and accurately records the minutes of each monthly meeting.

David McNorgan has done a wonderful job with photography and we are fortunate enough to be able to share some of these with you in this newsletter. Thanks, David!

ECT also is proud to have **Price Team Dominion Lending Centres** as the sponsors for our show: *"Alice in Wonderland"*



Continue reading on in this newsletter to the profile section for this month and more will be revealed about the talent that you will see



on stage...only these creative people are at work in our ECT workshop providing the beautiful set and set pieces for the play. (See profile for the month.)

## Homes of Elora Community Theatre



Current Workshop-West Montrose



Next Recent-Elora  
Used to be Ross Dunn's Auto Sales and Service  
Now Tire Shop



Home before that.....How many of you rehearsed in this building?

Did you know that in 2003 ECT **began** using this building which was formerly a school (big clue)? We stayed for a year because of rising rent. We went elsewhere for 8 years. (You will see 'elsewhere' in the next May Newsletter.)

ECT later returned to this site for rehearsal space in 2012-2014. But, as always, we were in need of space and storage for our costumes (which were stored at Arlene Callaghan's house, thanks Arlene, for a few years) and as always space for props and set building.

Some ECTers will remember participating on Elora Community Theatre's 'team' as we painted rooms and helped prepare the building (above) to be used for community groups.

## April Profile-Our Talented Set Team

Enter the famous trio: Robert Banning, Lawrence Lee and Maggie Parent stage right left and centre...because although you never see them on the stage during an actual performance, you cannot miss the work they do at the workshop and setting up at the Fergus Grand Theatre to prepare for our shows!



Here you see one of their masterpieces in construction at the workshop and later at the Fergus Grand Theatre for the play ***It's a Wonderful Life***. They all agreed that the bridge was one of their biggest challenges so far but as they do with all their challenges, they work together and figure out a solution. The height of this bridge pushed the limits of space vertically available on the FGT stage.

In ***The Sting***, a different kind of challenge presented itself with something like 70 scenes needed and to allow the action in the play to flow seamlessly. Once again they came up with the 'periakton'-a new word for most of us. See below how these triangular structures could turn easily to reveal an entirely different setting. Four of these periaktons were built by Robert and Lawrence and scene painted by Maggie.



*The Sting* -Periaktons



These three pictures above, show the 4 periaktons being used for three entirely different scenes. And although I was there opening night for the Sting, already sets were being changed quickly and efficiently without interrupting the action in the play. Congrats also for the onstage and offstage people who made it work so well. It was a pleasure to watch and amazed everyone who saw it.

The current play *Alice In Wonderland* presents yet again a different kind of challenge. Everyone who knows anything about the story can guess how important those set pieces are: the tea table, the teapot, the mushroom...well have a look next page and see what the terrific trio has done with these needed props. And then you can check back on the first page and see Alice inside the finished product! And more of the famous characters around it!



These famous set pieces have to be built not only to look appropriate for the play but also to be substantial enough to be a part of the action during the play.





Well, pictures speak louder than words, eh, so I thought these photos would give you some idea of how these props get to look like they do on the stage for the performance.

Last year's plays *The Drawer Boy* and *Little Women* also benefited hugely from the talent of these three volunteers who have continued to work tirelessly on our plays. We are delighted to have them as a vital part of our group. If you drop in at the workshop any day of the week, they will be there working away unless they've stopped for 'tea', which is an occasion in itself. They need at least two months to complete a set, 4-6 hours a day, five days a week. They didn't know each other before *The Drawer Boy*. Robert had worked on sets before for Vision Theatre and brings a wealth of experience from having been a newspaper artist and cartoonist, store planner, and creator of many commercial visual presentations in more urban centres in and out of the province. Lawrence has been around for many decades to help us out with moves in and out of the theatre. He also worked with Don Antosh on the special effects for *Dracula* which some of you may remember. Lawrence's background as an engineer comes in handy solving many problems and although Robert and Lawrence did not know each other until *The Drawer Boy*, they now are like the surgical team that knows what the other person is thinking before the need is expressed. Ideas bounce back and forth while they work. Many funny stories are shared and it's obvious all three enjoy working together and each other's company. Maggie has been helping out with set décor and set painting from when we were in the old Auto Centre and painted all of our sets then and since then. She feels she has learned a lot from Robert's expertise about special effects and painting techniques to produce the magic.

It was lovely to visit them again in their working space at ECT. We used to share many 'teas' when we were working on the set for *The Drawer Boy*. With the radio playing as a backdrop to their hive of quiet activity, there is a calm atmosphere of well being when you watch them and learn from them....although they are way way beyond me and the best I could do was clean the brushes and even then not as well as Maggie did.. and follow directions from Maggie about plain wall painting and she's already mixed the right colour for me, a colour that she and Robert both agree on is the right one. But I loved being there with them even though it was only a fraction of the time. Sometimes, when we watch a play we forget about all the people we don't see who have helped

in no small way put the play together and make it what it is when you see it. Hurray for our unsung heroes, costumes, stage managing, assistant stage managing, props, the movers, sound, lights to name but a few. Thanks to you all! We need you!



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Help with the 50/50 draw during the run of our next show *Alice In Wonderland*. Contact Maggie Parent [maggie66@rogers.com](mailto:maggie66@rogers.com)

**Actor** to play “Napoleon” at the Grand River Raceway’s Industry Day on Tuesday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. This is a paying gig and involves about five afternoon hours. Actor must be able to fit into existing costume. For info call Gary at 519 8465567. [gbryant@cogeco.ca](mailto:gbryant@cogeco.ca)

Programmes for our shows: Looking ahead, ECT is in need of help with our show programme that is put together before the run of each of our regular series shows during the year. Please contact anyone on the board and we will gladly get in touch with you if you feel you can be of help in this area.



### SOMETHING NEW

from Suzanne Trivers

"We have updated and painted our rehearsal space. Now it's time to update the website. Many thanks to Nat and Dean for volunteering their time and knowledge toward a new website. The website through Wild Apricot will stay active until the new website is up and running. We just won't be able to send renewal reminders and newsletters through it anymore. We will temporarily use another email service called



MailChimp so that we can comply with Anti-spam legislation. Our email address remains the same [ECTInformation@gmail.com](mailto:ECTInformation@gmail.com). Thanks for being patient while we work through our transition."  
By Suzanne Trivers

*Thanks, Suzanne, for all your time on this. We also appreciate the work you do as our ECT Treasurer.*

## **Coming Events**

(Please let me know if you would like to be listed)



ECT presents **Alice In Wonderland** directed by Jennifer Zirk, May 5-7, 12-14 Fergus Grand Theatre  
Tickets: 519 787 1981 or [www.fergusgrandtheatre.ca](http://www.fergusgrandtheatre.ca)

ECT Auditions for **Christmas Carol** directed by Deb Stanson, June 4, 5 ECT Workshop,  
[debstanson@gmail.com](mailto:debstanson@gmail.com)

ECT Shakespeare in the Park **Two Gentlemen of Verona** directed by David Tanner, July 14-16, 21-23  
Bissell Park, Elora [dtanner@sentex.net](mailto:dtanner@sentex.net)

ECT Shakespeare in the Park **Macbeth** directed by Deb Stanson August 3-6, 10-13 Bissell Park, Elora  
[debstanson@gmail.com](mailto:debstanson@gmail.com)

Elmira Theatre Company presents **Staff Room** directed by Denise Gismondi, Apr. 28-May 13  
[info@elmiratheatre.com](mailto:info@elmiratheatre.com)

Elora Arts Council presents Bus Trip to the **Georgia O'Keeffe Show** at AGO in Toronto Sat. June 3. Contact Noecker  
Travel, Elora for details 519-846-5307 All welcome.

Elora Arts Council presents **Elora en Plein Air Festival** will bring artists to Elora, Fergus and surrounding  
countryside from May 18h to May 21. [www.elorapleinair.ca](http://www.elorapleinair.ca)

**The Elora Writers Festival** is on Sunday, May 28 from 1 pm to 4 pm at Aboyne Hall (Wellington County Museum  
and Archives)

That's it for now, folks! Please email me if you'd like to submit info for  
future newsletters. Tune in next month for the next revelation in the chapter  
of ECT past homes and another profile in the near future.



Julie Wheeler-Bryant  
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