

Northern Lights Academy

Rigolet  
Labrador

*presents*

## WE SEEK NO CITY STREETS NOR LANES

**Theme:** Goose Bay as Port Labrador would be detrimental to life in Rigolet; the native people of Labrador (including Inuit, Indians and White settlers have more rights to Labrador than outsiders.

**CAST:** No cast submitted

"We Seek No City Streets Nor Lanes"

Theme: Goose Bay as Port Labrador would be detrimental to life in Rigolet; the native people of Labrador (including Inuit, Indians and White settlers) have more rights to Labrador than outsiders.

Characters:

Mayor Oliver - Mayor of Rigolet  
Mayor Brown - Mayor of Goose Bay  
Gerald Payne - M.P. for Labrador  
Edward Waters - MHA for Torngat Mountains  
Patrick Smith - MHA for Mealy Mountains

Margaret MacKenzie  
George MacKenzie  
Fern  
Kelly Children of Margaret & George  
Gary

Lily Newell  
Jeff Newell  
Sally  
Jim Children of Lily & Jeff  
Grandmother

Minister

SCENE I

1981 - Rigolet

A public meeting with the mayors of Goose Bay and Rigolet as well as the federal MP and the two MHA's in attendance. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the entry of the MV Arctic into Lake Melville and the possibility of Goose Bay becoming Port Labrador.

Mayor of  
Rigolet:

I am the Mayor of Rigolet, and as everyone knows, we are here to discuss Port Labrador and the first trip of the MV Arctic.

Here we have Mr. Patrick Smith, the representative for the Mealy Mountains district; Mr. Edward Waters, for the Torngat Mountains district and Gerald Payne, M.P. for Labrador. Also we have Mayor Brown of Happy Valley/Goose Bay.

On behalf of the Council of Rigolet, I wish to state our position. As everyone knows the M.V. Arctic will cut a path so's that it will be virtually impossible to reach the opposite side of the Bay.

Our reasons for doing this is a means of livelihood for the people. Activities such as hunting, trapping and fishing require many of our people to cross the Bay to persue these activities. Many times these people return late in the evening and even late at night. We need assurances that everything will be done to "adequately" mark the track cut by the MV Arctic, so that no one will be drowned or lose their snowmobiles in the crack.

Mayor Brown, you may state your position of the Council of Happy Valley/Goose Bay on the entry of the M.V. Arctic into Lake Melville.

Mayor  
Brown:

The town of Happy Valley/Goose Bay wants to become Port Labrador for different reasons; one being to build up the economic base of Goose Bay, hopefully attracting an aluminum smelter and other industry.

Mr. Smith: I am 100% behind Mayor Brown and his fellow council members. His reasons for wanting Port Labrador in Happy Valley/Goose Bay has my total respect.

Mr. Waters: As my position reveals, I am backing up Mayor Oliver of Rigolet and his council members. After all Rigolet is an older community than Happy Valley/Goose Bay and it stands for more rights. What do you think Mr. Payne?

Mr. Payne: I think that Mr. Water's got a point, but me being the Federal representative for both communities, I have got to equalize my thoughts.

Mayor of  
Rigolet:

I don't mean to cause a furor, however, as you are our federal representative we wish to know your position.

(SCENE I Cont'd)

Mr. Payne: In my heart I am against the disruption of livelihood -  
but then again who can stop progress?

Mayor

Oliver: We are trying to, and are hoping to succeed. Is it  
necessary to destroy a means of livelihood and natural  
resources of one town, just to boom another?  
Think of the people of Rigolet?

Local

Person: Right! Think of the people! Just because we are  
not as politically powerful as Happy Valley/Goose Bay does  
not mean we should not have the right to continue our way  
of life.

Mayor of

Rigolet: Perfectly good point.

Mayor of

H.V./G.B. If we do not have Port Labrador, we will not be able  
to continue our way of life, the way we want. We are  
trying to build an economic base the best way we can.  
The old ways cannot always survive. It would be nice  
if they could; however, like Mr. Payne said "can we stop  
progress". The economic development of the whole region  
must be considered more important than that of one small  
area.

Mayor of

Rigolet: Now hold on one second there Mr. Mayor of Goose Bay!  
What it took, or how long it took to build your community,  
ours is growing too; and has a right to just like yours did;  
and me being the chairman I am strongly opposed to your  
feelings and judgements.

SCENE II

Rigolet - 1985

Fern enters.

Fern: Mum there's no cabbage down to the store.

Margaret: There's never anything down to that darn store!! I'm  
sick and fed up with it. I can't even cook the meals I  
wants to cook!

George: What's you grumbling about now Margaret? You can go  
one day I suppose without having cabbage.

Margaret: I've gone one day too many. There's no vegetables, no  
fruit, the pork chops are green, and the beef is black.  
I'm sick of this place.

George: Those are things you have to put up with when you live  
in a small community during winter. Wait til summer, and  
you'll have all the fresh food you want.

SCENE II Cont'd)

(a door is heard slamming and Gary & Kelly bustle in)

Gary: Don't go hanging around with Sally. It's near supper time and what good are those Newells anyway.

Kelly: They only wanted me to stay for supper and I wanted to because they were having sealmeat.

Gary: Sealmeat!! Yucky!!

George: Kids, will you quiet down because I got a big enough headache already, and Gary, I don't want you talking that way about the Newells they are a nice family.

Margaret: Like Gary says, Kelly, I don't want you hanging around with those Newells, leave along eatin' their food!! George, why don't we just go Goose Bay. You can get a job, I can have running water, the kids will have proper schooling because the school is closing down. Maybe life will be better. If it don't work out, we can always come back.

Kelly: Not in a million years! I'm not leaving!!

Fern: Ya, let's go. Then I can see two live T.V. channels!

Gary: Maybe it's not a bad idea, I'll get away from the hunting and fishing and maybe I'll be able to do something I want to do.

George: Hey everybody, that's not a bad idea, at least there's some entertainment up there! (holds up bottle)

SCENE III

Rigolet - 1985

(Everyone is sitting around the table, they have just finished supper)

Lily: mmmm! What a hearty meal. I wonder why Gary wouldn't let Kelly stay for supper. They must have something awful good, to talk away from seal meat.

Jeff: I know! I believe Margaret MacKenzie is contrary, as the weather anyway!

Grandmother: More than likely they got old store bought can food and Marg can't even cook that right for lands sake.

Sally: I sure wish Kelly could've stayed here and enjoyed the seal meat, it won't be long now before we might not be able to get any, with that ice-breaker up there scoring them all out of Lake Melville.

Jim: You're right, that ice-breaker is really gonna do some damage. We can't even get down Back Bay with that track tore in the ice.

SCENE III Cont'd

Grandmother: Lily dear, can you help me to my room, it's time for my nap. (Lily and grandmother leave)

Jeff: Jim, did you get the dry wood in for the night?

Jim: No, I guess I'd better get it in before it gets too dark.

(Lily walks back in)

Lily: Come on Sally, lets get these dishes off the table.

(enter Kelly, upset and crying)

Kelly: Mrs. Newell, Mrs. Newell, I don't wanna go, I don't wanna go!!

Lily: Go where child.

Kelly: Mummy and Daddy says we gotta go Goose Bay, and I just don't wanna go!

(enters Jim with dry wood, while Jeff is speaking)

Jeff: Now why would they go and do a thing like that?

Sally: Mother hates this place. She says there's no decent food, no running water and she says she's had enough of this place.

Jim: What's wrong with this place, it suits me just fine, and I'm sure it suits you too, doesn't it Kelly?

Kelly: Yes! But what can I do?

Lily: I don't know child. I just don't know.

SCENE IV, Goose Bay 1990

(Margaret is knitting, George is reading newspaper and drinking, Kelly is reading a book and Gary is smoking and reading a comic.)

Margaret: George, did you get the welfare money today? I wants to go to Bingo tonight. The jackpot is five hundred dollars to go!

George: Money, money, always wantin' money! You spend all mine and I have none for myself.

Margaret: All you do is drink it anyway.

Kelly: All you two ever do is fight. I wish I was back in Rigolet.

SCENE IV Cont'd

Margaret: I don't want to hear tell of that place, leave alone see it.

Gary: Rigolet, who would want to go there, there's nothing to do in that place.

Kelly: At least if you were down there you wouldn't have broke into the drugstore to get those pills and ended up in jail for a year.

Gary: Mind your own business, life must be awful dull being a goodie-two-shoes all the time.

Kelly: As soon as I get the change I'm going back to Rigolet.

Margaret: Give me some money, George, till I gets out of here.

George: All I got is this five dollar bill (pull money out of his pocket).

(Margaret grabs the money and leaves)

Margaret: That'll do. (exiting)

George: Don't expect to find me here when you get back.

Margaret: I'm not worried.

(Fern enters)

Fern: What's on T.V.?

George: Don't know, don't care, I'm getting the hell out of here. (gets up to leave).

Fern: Where you goin'?

George: I'm getting out of this house tonight and taking the first plane back to Rigolet!

Kelly: Yeah and I want to come too!

Gary: Who cares if you're going? I'm not! I suppose you're taking that witch of a Gladys with you!

George: (grabs Gary by collar) I don't want any jailbird, dope addict talking like that about my Gladys!! You stopped being my son long ago. Come on Kelly let's go.

(George and Kelly walk off stage.) (Fern is still watching T.V., Gary reading comic)

(Time lapse) Short time later Margaret enters.

SCENE IV Cont'd

Margaret: George, where are you? I needed one more for the jackpot!!

Gary: He and Kelly left awhile ago. He's going back to Rigolet and he's taking that no-good Gladys with him.

Margaret: It had to happen sooner or later, all that bum ever did was drink anyway.

Fern: How can you say such a thing? He came here to please you, and you never cared about him. All you ever think about is yourself. You made his life miserable, so daddy found someone else to make him happy.

Gary: Shut up Fern, and go back to your T.V! You got no right to talk to Mother like that. So just shut up!

Fern: Shut up! I won't shut up. I'll get my own place. I make enough money now to do whatever I want!

(walks out)

SCENE V

Rigolet, 1990

(Enters grandmother supported by Jim, mother supported by Sally and a minister) All sit down, all crying except Minister.

Lily: Why did it have to happen, Jeff was such a young man, such a good man...

Grandmother: He was so caring. I remember one time .....

Sally: It's all their fault and now daddy's dead and gone, lost in the ice-cold water, all because of the ice breakers, cutting up the Bay. I'll stop them if it's the last thing I do!!!

Minister: There, there child, he's gone to a far better place with the Lord, and he'll never again feel pain. You should be happy for him, not sad. (Sally exits)

Lily: But how can I go on without him? Life doesn't matter anymore.

Jim: Somehow I'll take care of you mother. Even though it's impossible to hunt seals, we'll pull through on other wild meat.

Grandmother: I always knew you were a good boy Jeff, just like dad.  
(all women suddenly cry)

Jim: Dad has left us grandmother, I'm Jim your grandson.

Lily: Come on grandma, time for your nap.



SCENE V Cont'd

Jim: That's all right mother, I'll take her.

(Jim and grandmother leave)

Lily: Now with Jeff gone its gonna be hard to take care of Grandmother and my family too. How am I going to support us all. Where's the money gonna come from. I never thought I'd have to go on welfare.

Minister: I'll try to make arrangements for grandmother to go to the home in Goose Bay if you want.

Lily: Thank you Reverend, that would be so kind of you, I wouldn't know how to go about it myself.

Grandmother: (from offside) I hears you. I'm not going!! Now that Jeff's gone, you got your chance to get rid of me, but I won't leave Rigolet!! Not while I'm alive!!

Jim: It'll be alright grandma.

Lily: (to Minister) I never wanted to get rid of her, but I just can't take care of her all by myself.

Minister: I understand Mrs. Newell. Sometimes life seems so cruel but it will all be made clear on the last day.

Lily: There can't be any God, or he wouldn't have let this happen to my Jeff.

Minister: Everything happens for a reason and his death must have been for some purpose.

(George & Kelly enter, greetings)

George: I just got back to Rigolet and heard about Jeffs accident. You have my deepest sympathy.

Lily: Where's Marge and the kids?

George: I've had enough of life in Goose Bay. Marge and the kids can have that life if they want to. Kelly and I prefer life here at home.

Kelly: Where's Jim?

Lily: He'll be so glad to see you girl, he's been waiting so long for you to come back. Now you can be my daughter.

Something has to be done about those ships before I lose my son too.

(Enters Sally - goes to centre stage, lights dim, one light on Sally.)

SCENE V Cont'd

Sally: I am the President of the LIA and I wish to announce  
the last trip of the MV Arctic. We the native Labradorians  
have won our rights and we now control our own destiny.  
The outsiders will control us NO MORE!!!

All sing verse 1 & 3 of Ode to Labrador.

END