

J.C. ERHARDT MEMORIAL SCHOOL, MAKKOVIK

presents

"One Part of My Life"

"One Part Of My Life" is a play which contains scenes that are based on events that happened in and around Makkovik within the last 100 years. The characters are fictitious but the inspiration for them came from our experiences.

With our play, we hope to preserve and inform. We hope to convey to our audience the romance, tragedy, and humour of living in Labrador. This play has also served to inform our actors / actresses of a way of life that has changed and is changing and to give the opportunity to think about the traditions and way of life they are so much a part of.

Cast

	Edward	- Eric Andersen
	Liz	- Angie Chaulk
<u>Woodin:</u>	Torsten	- Tracy Ann Evans
	Bob	- Alvin Jacque
	Tom	- Kerry Mitchell
<u>Cabin:</u>	Jack	- Jeannie Michelin
	Joe	- Rebecca Winters
	Bill	- Kerry Mitchell (no talking)
<u>Rabbit:</u>	Cavelle	- Betty Jararuse
	Albert	- Alvin Jacque
	Peggy	- Jeannie Michelin
<u>Church:</u>	Minister	- Jeannie Michelin
	Children	- Rebecca Winters
		- Alvin Jacque
		- Betty Jararuse
		- Tracy Ann Evans
	Santa	- Kerry Mitchell
<u>Dryfish:</u>	Herb	- Rebecca Winters
	Herb's Son John	- Betty Jararuse
	Herb's Wife Mathilda	- Tracy Ann Winters
	Jason (cousin)	- Kerry Mitchell
	Other Children	- Alvin Jacque
		- Jeannie Michelin
<u>Dance:</u>	Josephine	- Kerry Mitchell
	William	- Rebecca Winters
	Albert	- Alvin Jacque
	Cavelle	- Betty Jararuse
	Others	- All Others
<u>Teacher Advisor</u>		- Ms. Penni Spracklin

Michael Snow  
Gr. 4  
Spruce Park



ONE PART OF MY LIFE

Scene 1

(House-livingroom and kitchen two people watching T.V.)

Liz: What s a cow? Right again Edward. Boy I'm getting some good at this Jeopardy (pause) What is rice?

Edward: 'dats not right maid, the answer is corn.

Liz: No sir! We'll find out now after this commercial.  
(power goes off - total darkness)

Edward: Now we'll never know.

Liz: Well it comes on again at 8 o'clock, maybe the power will be back on by then.

Edward: Well no need of sittin' here in the dark, lets have a game of crazy 8's.  
(lights come up to a candlelight effect)

Liz: I'll get the cards in the drawer and you get the candles.  
(they move to the table, Edward deals the cards and gives them out)

Liz: Miss your turn,  
Miss your turn,  
Miss your turn,  
Pick up four.

Edward: Oh my Lizzie, what's you doing?

Liz: Some quiet here. I kind of miss the sound of the fridge. Can you remember when we had no power a'tall. Now Edward, don't go cheatin. I'm counting how many you picking.

Edward: I'm not cheating Lizzie, for goodness sake. I'm 63 years old. I can count you know.

Liz: Well I always got to keep my eye on you.

Edward: You always had your eye on me, eh Liz. (pause) Those were the good days, but hard ones.

Liz: We worked hard and never had much but I sometimes think we were better off then.

Edward: Getting water, fishin, haulin and choppin wood, my it never stopped. No chainsaws and ski-doo's in those days. And not only that but we did it for the church as well. Every Easter Saturday.

Liz: Yes every Easter Saturday everybody with a dog team would go up in the woods and had a load of wood for the church.

Edward: They'd have enough wood to last a whole year.  
(lights go down and come up on a woods scene).

## Scene 2

(Two men sawing wood with bucksaws)

Tom: (wiping his brow) Another stick down, Bob, boy.

Bob: I'm making good time. I'llows I'll be the first one back this year.

Tom: Well I only have a few more sticks to go and I'm out of here.

Bob: I believe everybody with a dog team is up here in the woods this year except Uncle Albert. He lost two of his dogs to the storm last Tuesday night.

Tom: Yes boy, ugly bad storm. Donald got lost coming up from Peter's Island, took him two hours to make a ten minute run.

Bob: (pointing) Is that Torsten comin' there? Well look, he's got his load.  
(Torsten comes along)

Torsten: Ugly good day for woodin eh?

Tom: Yes, eh?

Torsten: Looking forward to the dog team race on Monday. I hope I get Lizzie. She's not much more than 80 lbs. Not much to haul on a komatik.

Bob: Yes, boy, not much like her sister Jane. I wonder which lady will pick my team? I wouldn't mind that new teacher. She can't be more than 100 pounds.

Tom: Good, going on the ice this year. I hear there's 25 teams entered.

Torsten: Yes boys, well got to get this load back to the church, and get a load of water for mamma. See you down to Uncle Harry's for the pickin' of the teams.

Tom and Bob: See ya Torsten.

(lights fade and come up on the kitchen scene again.)

Scene 3

Edward: I picked you that year, never won the race, but I won your heart.

Liz: Oh Edward! Are you foolish or what? We were too busy to go courtin then.

Edward: Yes we worked some hard. And fishin was the hardest. You catch it, clean it, split it and dry it on the rocks and then you had to rush out when it rained and cover it with canvas. (pause) Yes, Lizzie I think that was the hardest piling on the bond.

(lights go down, and come up on an outdoor scene. Herb and John spreading fish)

Scene 4

Herb: It's almost dry, another day or so.

John: This will fetch a fine price eh dat?

Herb: Yes my son. But my old bones aren't up for it lately. This arthritis got me all bent out of shape. I get down and I can't get up. My, oh my oh my it's starting to rain. Run and get your mother, quick hurry, hurry!

(John runs shouting)

John: Come on it's raining, hurry, hurry!!

(everybody rushes out - gathering and piling fish putting canvas over it)

Mathilda: Well you know it would rain eh! Just when the fish was almost dry.

Jason: It's raining harder, hurry.  
( they finish up)

Mathilda: Well can you believe that, the rains stopping and the sun's coming out.

Jason: Must have only been a shower. No more dark clouds.

John: Looks pretty clear now.

Herb: Well let's spread the fish again.

Everybody: Oh (reluctantly beginning to spread the fish again)

(lights fade)

Scene 5

Liz: Yes that would drive you nuts just as you get the fish up the rain would stop.

Edward: Or you'd put it out and the rain would start.

Liz: Speakin of workin' hard are Torsten and them going over to the Michael's Harbour trappin this year?

Edward: Yes, they've gone over every year except that year those poor American pilots landed there out of gas.

Liz: Poor things. They didn't know how to survive on the Labrador. They only waited for Torsten and them to go over and find them.

Edward: They were in Torsten's cabin for quite a while before anybody found them. They didn't know the land and realize that a community was so close (thoughtfully) But for some reason Torsten and them didn't go over trappin that year.

(lights go down and come upon a cabin scene with three people wrapped in blankets.)

Scene 6

Joe: Jack...Jack?

Jack: moans

Joe: You still with me Jack?

Jack: Moans

Joe: I wonder what Janet is doing now? She must be out of her mind with worry. I bet little Jimmy can walk now. He was almost walking when I left home.  
(crying...pause... wipes his eyes)  
How long have we've been here?  
(checks marking son the wall)  
1 month 18 days  
I thought for sure those trappers would be back this year.  
I wonder why? Jack...Jack...

Jack: Moans

Joe: Jack, Jack, (no answer, he goes over to him)  
Jack... Jack... (pause)  
Good-Bye old friend.

(covers over the body and goes and picks up the diary)

Dear Diary:

It's been 1 month and 18 days since we have landed our plane here out of gas. Bill died 3 days ago and Jack just passed on. I don't expect I'll last much longer. You can't live without food and we didn't have the know how to keep ourselves alive. I grow weaker by the hour. It's just a matter of time. Whoever finds us please let my family know my last thoughts were of them. Tell them I love them.

(puts down diary, checks markings on the wall, looks at his two friends, looks out the window - goes back to blanket, takes a piece of paper).

Joe: (writing) Why not this year? (sticks up sign, lies back in the blanket) Why not this year? (loudly)  
Lights down and wraps himself up)

(lights go down and comes up on kitchen, with Liz wiping her eyes)

#### Scene 7

Liz: A sad, sad tale. I wonder what kept Torsten and them away that year?

Edward: Only the Lord above knows. We've had our share of hardships though.

Liz: But there was many a good time too.

Edward: Yes, remember that teacher that called Bob and told him his out house was on fire?

Liz: Ha, ha, poor thing didn't know it was Bob's smoke house and not his outdoor toilet.

Edward: And remember when that other teacher tried to cook the rabbit for her supper?

Liz: Ha, ha, ha...

(lights down and come up on a kitchen scene)

#### Scene 8

(Enter Albert with rabbits for a lady standing by a table. Another lady is sweeping the floor)

Cavelle: Hi Albert! What have you got there?

Peggy: Hi Albert!

Albert: Hello Cavelle and Peggy, here's some rabbits I trapped over in the country for you.

Cavelle: Oh...thank-you...maybe you could come back for supper. These look lovely.

Albert: Love to, what time?

Cavelle: About 6 o'clock.

Albert: I'll be there.  
(Albert leaves, she begins to look and examine it the rabbits, while Peggy continues sweeping)

Cavelle: I guess I should clean these. But I wonder how?

Peggy: Well, I've seen my dad pluck birds, I guess it's done the same way

Cavelle: Okay, lets try (begins plucking) My this is some sticky.

Albert: I forgot my gloves...(pause) What are you doing?

Cavelle: I'm cleaning the rabbits.

Albert: Yes, but how are you doing it?

Cavelle: Well, I'm plucking it.

Albert: You don't pluck a rabbit, you pluck a bird. You skin a rabbit.

#### Scene 9

(lights fade up on kitchen scene...laughter)

Edward: Albert married Cavelle afterwards didn't he?

Liz: We had some good time at that dance that night.

Edward: Yes, those dances were wonderful. They don't have dances like that anymore.

Liz: How long has it been since we've been to a dance Edward? Six or seven years?

Edward: It seems longer than that since I've had you in my arms and danced you around the floor.

(lights fade to a hall scene-two people standing around)

#### Scene 10

William: That was some delicious wedding supper.

Josephine: Yes, I'm full. I can't wait for the dance to start.

William: Albert looked nervous.

Josephine: He must have been because he got the Ski-doo stuck in a snow bank on the way to the hall, and Cavelle fell face first in the snow, good thing it was while snow and not mud.

(enter Albert and Cavelle)

William: Congratulations Albert and Cavelle.

Josephine: Congratulations  
shaking of hand...music starts

Josephine: Come on boys lets dance  
(dance and old fashioned waltz)

Josephine: I think I could dance all night.

William: Me too Josie, me too.  
(putting his arm around her)

(lights fade out, come up on kitchen scene).

#### Scene 11

Liz: Albert and Cavelle moved to Ontario afterwards.

Edward: She could dance better than she could skin a rabbit.

Liz: They had three christmas babies you know.

Edward: Speaking of Christmas, I've got to get the trees for the church this year.

Liz: All the youngsters are looking forward to the candlelight service.

(lights go down and come up on church service. Children have apples)

#### Scene 12

Minister: Now that you all have your candles symbolizing the birth of Jesus, and he being the light of the world, we will sing hymn #62, "Jesus Bids a Shine", only the children will sing the first verse.

(everybody begins to sing)



Minister: Please blow out your candles. Lets Pray.  
"May the Lord bless you and keep. May he make his face  
to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the  
Lord.  
Now we'll see if our special visitor is here!

(Santa enters)

Santa: Ho,ho,ho...Merry Christmas.  
(Santa and minister begin to give the presents to the  
children, naming them one by one.)

(Lights fade out and come up on kitchen )

### Scene 13

Edward: The young ones love that. Santa making a special trip to  
see them in church.

Liz: Yes, the apples and trees make the church smell and look  
so pretty at Christmas. Miss your turn. Last Card.

(Edward Plays)

Edward: A lot of things have changed Lizzie. Life's gotten a bit  
easier.

Liz: Yes Edward, but a lot of things stayed the same too.  
We've got to continue teaching the young people about our  
traditions, and keep them going. There will be good and  
bad times. last card, (plays it), I won.

(lights flicker and come back on)

Edward: Quarter to 8, Liz we'll now find out the answer to that  
Jeopardy question is corn.

Liz: No sir, it's rice.

Edward: It's rice.

Liz: It's corn (argue a bit)

Edward: Ah Liz, I'm not worried anyway, Leave the thing off for  
a while and turn on the radio.  
(turns on the radio)

(entire group sings "One Part of My Life I Picture Yet"  
(song finishes)

Edward: Well there's a few parts of my life I picture yet.