



Cindy Roberts
Gr. 7 Henry Gordon Ac
Cartwright

SPRUCE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

presents

SIR WILFRED T. GRENFELL:

THE SANTA CLAUS OF THE COAST

adapted from the book, **Grenfell and Christmas**, by D.S. Ryan

CAST

Narrator	Ashley Clark
Dr. Grenfell	Patrick Michelin
Young doctor/Timmy	Cephas Hope
Administrator	David Langille
Lady	Mary-Anne MacDonald
Little girl	Ralinda Hewlett
Brothers	Marty Brown
	Jason Oliver
	Justin Philip
	Richard Tibbo
	Max Williams
	Kris Hynes
Sisters	April Roberts
Nurse 1	Jenny Oldford
Nurse 2	Robyn Bradfor
Mother	Courtney Kenington
Jimmy	Jeremy Gould
Little boy	Hasan Tretina
Doctor	Justin Philip

What is generally not known to most Labradorians is that Wilfred Grenfell brought Santa Claus, reindeer, and the Christmas tree to northern Newfoundland and Labrador as a vital part of his Labrador mission. Before his arrival, Christmas came and went without being celebrated, but Grenfell changed all that. Dillon Wallace wrote: "The Doctor never forgets the Christmas 'gifts'...Even the tiniest, most forlorn little lad or lass is not forgotten by Doctor Grenfell. He is the Santa Claus of the coast..." Catch the Christmas spirit early, as Spruce Park Elementary retells some of the highlights of Dr. Grenfell's northern adventures.

PROPS:

<i>PRESENTS</i>	<i>SANTA SUIT</i>	<i>SACK</i>
<i>GUN</i>	<i>BLANKET</i>	<i>DOLL</i>
<i>KOMATIC</i>	<i>RED JACKET</i>	<i>TORN CLOTHES</i>

Introduction: What is not generally know to most Labradorians is that Wilfred Grenfell brought Santa Claus, reindeer, and the Christmas tree to Northern Newfoundland and Labrador as a vital part of his Labrador Mission. Before his arrival Christmas came and went without being celebrated but Grenfell changed all that! Dillon Wallace once wrote that "The Doctor never forgets the Christmas "gifts"... Even the tiniest, most forlorn little lad or lass is not forgotten by Doctor Grenfell, He is the Santa Claus of the coast. He never forgets. Nothing, if it will bring joy in the life of any one, is too big or too small for his attention. Catch the Christmas spirit early as Spruce Park Elementary retells some of the highlights of Dr. Grenfell's northern adventures.

Opening Scene:

Time: December 24, 1891

Place: London, England

LONDON HOSPITAL

A old lady, wearing ripped clothes and a bandanna, stands next to her young daughter, smiling. A poor, dirty little girl sits on a stool, clutching a new doll while Dr. Grenfell bandages her ankle. The girl is surrounded by her 6 brothers and 6 sisters, who are also wearing old torn clothes.

GIRL: (In a British accent) Thank you for the doll sir. Me Mum said we wouldn't have a Christmas this year.

LADY: (accent) Me husband lost his job in Manchester since they laid people off down on the docks. Looks like we won't be the only ones without a tree in the parlour this year. I wish there was someway to pay you.

GIRL: Why don't we sing you a song, would you like that Dr.

Grenfell?

GRENFELL: Sure I love to hear you sing.

All the brothers and sisters join in a chorus of "Side By Side". When they are finished they take their original positions on stage.

YOUNG DOCTOR: DR. Grenfell!! Dr. Grenfell! We have another emergency! Seems some fisherman from the North Sea has a severe case of appendicitis. We've got him prepped and in the O.R, but you better get scrubbed up in a hurry, I don't think he's going to make it. I'll take over. (The doctor takes the bandage from Grenfell and continues to wrap the little girl's ankle.)

GRENFELL: Looks like it's going to be a long Christmas Eve.

Grenfell exits.

NARRATOR: Wilfred Grenfell received his medical training in London, England where he came into contact with the poor of the city slums and took a keen interest in helping with their problems and reshaping their lives. It was also in the London Hospital that he met with the fishermen from the large fishing fleets of the North Sea. The fishermen had no medical service, and if they were injured or sick they had to be sent to London on boats that were taking fish to market.

SCENE 2

Set: The young doctor and Grenfell are standing outside the OR room having a cup of coffee and seem to be engaged in a deep conversation. Enter the Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR: Ah, there you are doctor. Did the sailor make it?

GRENFELL: No sir, his appendix ruptured an hour before he made it to the hospital. It's a wonder he lived as long as he did.

YOUNG DOCTOR: It's a shame they don't have any medical services along the Atlantic Coast. Then tragedies like this could be avoided.

ADMINISTRATOR: Too bad we didn't have a hospital at sea!

GRENFELL: Perhaps it is not such a crazy idea. If we had a medical boat with all the necessary supplies to handle an emergency at sea

then maybe we could make a difference.

ADMINISTRATOR: That's not a bad idea but who would be crazy enough to operate at sea?

GRENFELL: I would do it.

ADMINISTRATOR: Now doctor, you have your hands full here.

GRENFELL: Timmy has been doing a fine job (pats the Young Doctor on the back) I'm sure it wouldn't take him long to fill my shoes.

ADMINISTRATOR: If your serious then I could start pulling some strings right away. We could have the money raised in no time.

NURSE: Sorry to interrupt, Dr. Grenfell you are scheduled for the O.R.

GRENFELL: Thank you nurse. Perhaps being out to sea won't be so bad after all.

NARRATOR: There was an urgent need for medical care at sea. Dr. Grenfell decided to give it a try. He did and liked the adventurous life so much that he spent three years with the North Sea fishermen and left when the call came to bring medical services to people of Newfoundland and Labrador. The summer of 1892 saw Grenfell arrive in St. John's to begin his life-long service. Within a few years he had established his medical mission, not only for the Labrador coast but also for Northern Newfoundland. He chose St. Anthony as the base for his headquarters in Northern Newfoundland and Northwest River later as the base for his Labrador operations. Apart from bringing medical services he also brought the excitement and sheer joy of Christmas.

SCENE 3

Time: December 24, 1903

Place: St. Anthony Hospital

It's Christmas eve, Dr. Grenfell is working with a young patient in his office.

GRENFELL: Well there you go lad, that should keep you together until Christmas morning.

LITTLE BOY: Oh doctor I'm so excited. I hope Santa comes tonight. Do you believe in Santa?

GRENFELL: Of course I do and I'm positive he's coming. Did you have a good Christmas last year?

LITTLE BOY: My yes, I had half an apple all to myself!

Boy begins to exit.

BOY: Thanks | Mr. Grenfell

GRENFELL: See you, and Merry Christmas.

The nurse enters.

NURSE: You have another patient.

Timmy Enters

GRENFELL: Well look at you! *(Both men shake hands)*

TIMMY: It's been a long time doctor. The last time we spoke you were getting ready to leave for the Atlantic Coast. Now look at you, so much for your own medical ship. Now you have your own hospital.

GRENFELL: It hasn't been easy getting everything organized but the work sure is rewarding. Enough about work, how long are you staying?

TIMMY: Don't worry doctor I'll still pull my weight.

NURSE: The snow is really starting to come down now. I wonder what surprises are in store for us tonight?

GRENFELL: I don't know but it is a little too quiet.

NARRATOR: The Doctor was right, it was too quiet. That same evening in a small community just outside of St. Anthony a young boy sets out to look for his family's Christmas dinner.

Scene 4

Place: St. Karl's

Time: Same evening

MOTHER: Now Jimmy you git out der an git a Gull fer Christmas dinner.

JIMMY: Yis, ma.

MOTHER: An stay hoff the hice!

Jimmy starts to walk out, carrying his gun.

JIMMY: Owww. I ates dis part of Christmas. Sure I won't fin'a ting d'night. Now dats a nice bit of hice. (*Jimmy looks back to make sure his mother isn't looking*) I got to have one slide.

Jimmy stands back to get a run and tries to slide. as he is running he trips and the gun goes off, shooting himself in the knee.

JIMMY: Ahh. my knee! My Knee.

Mother comes running

MOTHER: Jimmy!, Jimmy!, Is ya killed? Git the doctor!

The Mother holds Jimmy in her arms until the doctor, wearing a red dickie, and Timmy arrive on their Komatic.

GRENFELL: (Examines the boy's knee) His knee joint is shattered and he has lost a lot of blood. We better get him back to the hospital quickly.

They put Jimmy in the Komatic and head for St. Anthony Hospital.

Scene 5

Place: St. Anthony Hospital

Time: Late Christmas Eve

Both men, covered in snow, are carrying Jimmy into the hospital. The children think Grenfell is Santa.

CHILDREN: Look it's Santa Claus!

GRENFELL: This poor lad has his knee shattered, he will live but make sure you get all of the buck shot out.

Grenfell hands the boy to another doctor.

NURSE: We were a little worried that Santa would not make it in all this bad weather. (*She hands Grenfell a sack full of toys*)

GRENFELL: I hope everyone has been good this year.

CHILDREN: Yes Santa.

GRENFELL: Before Santa hands out the presents why don't we sing a Christmas carol.

The Children and Grenfell join in singing a Christmas carol together.

NARRATOR: Dr. Grenfell continued to set up hospitals and nursing stations along the Labrador coast. Places such as Battle Harbor, Cartwright, Northwest River and Indian Harbor were fortunate enough to receive medical services and became the centers for the spreading of Christmas cheer from December 25 to late March each year.