

**Peacock Elementary School  
Happy Valley-Goose Bay  
presents**

**“It’s All Been Done Before”**

Cast

Nan.....	Kathleen Borlase
Grandfather.....	Tim Borlase
Teacher.....	Marg Saunders
Great Aunt.....	Sue McLean
Music Teacher.....	Donna Lee McLennon
Principal’s Voice.....	Wayne Oldford
Students in order of appearance.....	Amy Norman, Shayonne Pye-Strowbridge, Chantelle Moss, Chantel Aylward, Chris Best, Myron Baggs, Ethen Broomfield, Jenine Marshall, Andrew Humphries, Meagan LeDrew, Chelsea Dyson, Karla Poole, Darrin Hodder, Shandi Russell, Jeremy Anderson, Jonathan Newman, Grant Wheeler, Jonathan Holwell

Teacher Advisors

Kathleen Borlase  
Marg Saunders

Peacock’s play is a response to the Year of the Older person and to the development focus of the school this year - Self and Society. The 5 scenes were sketched and then each Grade 4 class was assigned one scene to dialogue. Each class selected actors to be in the play. It was decided to use adult actors for the adult roles to make this a more meaningful piece of work for the student population. The Grade 4 teachers enjoyed the experience of writing the dialogues for their class’ scenes and felt that all the students benefitted from the experience.

## **“It’s All Been Done Before”**

### **Opening of play**

*(Theme music plays, then fades)*

**Amy:** *(Spotlight on, sitting on stool stage right.)* This year at Peacock Elementary School our development focus is Self and Society. All five Grade 4 classes helped write this play about the kinds of things that are the same today as they were when our grandparents were young. It all starts with a song! *(Stretches arm out to stage left - spot light off right , on left.)*

### **Scene 1**

*(CBC on radio, fades as girl speaks - Nan is sweeping the floor left, girls carrying school bags come in from stage right, rocking chair, ghetto blaster)*

**Shavonne:** Hi Nan, I’m home. What are you doing?

**Nan:** Just cleaning up dear.

**Shavonne:** I brought the two Chantelles over Nan.

**Nan:** Bring them on in.

**Chantelle:** Ask your Nan if we can change the station.

**Chantel:** The music is better on the other channel.

**Shavonne:** Can we Nan?

**Nan:** Sure.

*(Shavonne changes stations. “Last Kiss” comes on.)*

**Chantelle:** Hey, it’s Pearl Jam.

**Chantel:** Cool!!

*(All the girls start singing - but they don’t know the words. Nan confidently joins in)*

**Shavonne:** Wow, Nan!

**Girls:** Go Nanny. Go Nanny. Go Nanny. Go Nanny. *(Song ends)*

**Chantel:** How did you know that song?

**Nan:** Well, when I was about your age that song was really popular. But it wasn't Pearl Jam - those guys weren't even born then. I used to listen to it on my transistor radio with my friends. And we loved it too.

*(Girls look at Nan, roll eyes and freeze. Lights off. Old "Last Kiss" plays)*

**Amy:** *(Spot light, stage left)* That was weird! Imagine your grandmother knowing the words to your favourite song because it was her favourite way back when. *(Looks at watch)* Oh, oh! I'd better get to school. *(Moves into scene 2, lights up)*

## Scene 2

*(Students move into scene from all directions. Settle in, teacher enters, writes on board.)*

**Teacher:** Everyone take out your Social Studies texts please. We're starting the chapter on the last half of this century.

**Chris:** Ya! Ancient History.

**Teacher:** We'll be learning about how your grandparents and in some cases your great grandparents lived when they were your age.

**Myron:** We should ask our grandparents about what they did when they were young.

**Ethan:** And what they wore.

**Vincent:** And what their hobbies were.

**Teacher:** What an excellent idea! Inside information! Perhaps you can find out some neat stuff!

**Andrew:** *(raises hand)* Can we work with partners and interview our grandparents over the long weekend.

**Teacher:** Great idea! Let's make a list of some things to ask in your interviews. Call them out.

**Maegan:** Why did they protest?

**Andrew:** Why did they wear bell bottoms?

**Chelsea:** Hey, I've got bell bottoms!

**Karla:** I wear bell bottoms that my gran wore in the 60's.

**Darrin:** What did the peace sign mean?

**Teacher:** Those are all good questions. I'm sure you'll think of more. (*Shavonne raises her hand*) Yes, Shavonne?

**Shavonne:** Guess what? Yesterday afternoon when the two Chantelles were at my house my Nan was singing my favourite song "Last Kiss" and she knew all the words.

**Chantelle:** We were there. We heard her.

**Chantel:** It was her favourite song way back when - before Pearl Jam was even born.

**Teacher:** Did your Nan listen to the song on a CD?

**Shavonne:** No she didn't. She had something called a record.

**Shandi:** Oh yeah! MY Grandma has some of those. They look like dinner plates.

**Teacher:** Okay now. I'll pair you up. Shavonne and Darrin, Grant and Myron, Jonathan H. and Shandi. You three groups be ready for Tuesday. The rest of you, I'll post a list in the hall. Be sure to check before you go home tonight. No school Monday ! (*lights out. Students leave*)

**Amy:** (*Moved to rocking chair, stage left, spot light on*) I'm glad I don't have to have my presentation for Tuesday! I want to enjoy my long weekend! I wonder what Jeremy and Jonathan will do? (*Spot to center stage*)

### Scene 3

(*Grandfather and the two boys are in the attic looking through the trunk. Stage right*)

**Jeremy:** Grandfather, is that you in this photo and what's the big thing behind you with all the knobs?

**G.Father:** Yes, sonny boy that's me and that's the family radio. Every night we listened to our favourite programs and heard the latest music from all over.

**Jonathan:** Grandfather, how old were you in this photo?

**G. Father:** I was nine years old and in grade 4 like you.

**Jeremy:** Grandfather, how many classrooms were in your school?

**G. Father:** There were two classrooms in my school.

**Boys:** Only two classrooms!

**G. Father:** That's right boys. There were grades Kindergarten to 6 in one room and Grade 7 to 11 in the other room.

**Jonathan:** Did you write in exercise books?

**G. Father:** Well, paper was pretty scarce. We had to go easy on it. We worked a lot on the blackboard.

**Jeremy:** That's like a chalkboard, right? Grandfather, what did you have to take to school?

**G. Father:** We had two wood stoves and everybody carried junks of wood to school to keep the fires going when the furnace broke down.

**Jonathan:** We're lucky.

**Jeremy:** Yeah, we just have to bring our school bags and lunches.

**Jonathan:** I wonder what school will be like when we're your age Grandfather?

**Jeremy:** Maybe kids won't have to leave their homes and everything will be on computer even the teachers.

**Jonathan:** Maybe school would be a big space ship like on Star Trek.

**G. Father:** You boys sure have a big imagination. School is school. It will still be happening, don't you worry.

*(Lights off, music plays, lights on stage right)*

**Amy:** *Spot light on stage left)* That didn't look too hard did it? They found out lots of stuff. I wonder what the others found out? *(Spot light off)*

#### Scene 4

*( 6 students, 3 telephone conversations. Spotlight on each pair)*

**Ethan:** Hey, what's up?

**Vincent:** Just finished talking to my grand-dad. Did you know that hockey has been around since my grand-dad was a kid? That's a long time ago! *(Bounces a hockey puck in the air while on the phone)*

**Ethan:** I wonder why it's still popular when it's so old?... You know your new haircut?!

**Vincent:** Yeah?

**Ethan:** Well, my pop had the same haircut when he was a kid! *(Lights off this pair, lights on next pair)*

**Maegan:** What did you find out from your uncle? Guess what?! You know that my aunt said they had skipping ropes when she was small, and they even sang the same songs too!

**Andrew:** Cool! They had yoyos back then too. My uncle could do 6 "around the worlds". Pretty impressive, hey? *(Student tries to do "around the world" with yoyo while talking. Lights off this pair, lights on next pair.)*

**Chelsea:** You know that sweater I wore today?

**Karla:** Yeah?

**Chelsea:** My great grandma knit it. She taught my mother how to knit and my mom is teaching me.

**Karla:** Guess what? When we went to the library, I took the Nancy Drew book, right?

**Chelsea:** Right.

**Karla:** Well, my mom read the whole series when she was my age and so did my grandma.

**Chelsea:** Cool!

*(Spotlight out, on to stage left.)*

**Amy:** Aren't telephones a great thing? I wonder if Pop had a phone in his room when he was little? Anyways, *(checks watch)* don't want to be late for class today!

### Scene 5

*(Everyone is in class - adults mixed in - noisy as settle in)*

**Teacher:** Well everyone, I hope you had a nice break. Let's get to work. *(Looks at clipboard)* Our first presenters are Shavonne and Darrin.

**Shavonne:** Hi. This is my Nan. Her name is Betsy.

**Nan:** Hi boys and girls. It's really nice to be here today.

**Darrin:** Shavonne's Nan is a good singer and she even knows some of the top 40 because they were popular songs when she was our age.

**Nan:** I started singing when I was younger than you. I just love to sing!

**Shavonne:** My Nan will sing us a song, if we want her to.

**Shandi:** Let's hear her sing "Jet Plane".

**Nan:** Well, okay, if you really want me to. I'll sing one verse and you join in on the chorus.

**Class:** Yeah! Yeah! *(Sings song, clapping)*

**Teacher:** That was really wonderful. Thank you so much. Now, let's hear from Myron and Grant.

**Myron:** My Grandpa is Jeremy and Jonathan's grandpa too. We're cousins. He can't sing very well but he sure can tell a good story about the past.

**Grandpa:** Hello boys and girls. My name is Tom and it's nice to meet you all. I could talk forever about the past but I think Miss might not like it if I kept you here forever.

**Grant:** We found out that's right. It was hard to make him stop. *(Whole class laughs)*

**Grandpa:** I can't believe how big the houses are today. We had seven children and only three bedrooms. Everyone had to share a bed. At least that way we were warm in bed cause the house was freezing. Nowadays kids have it easier - sometimes.

**Darrin:** I'm glad I don't have to share a bed!

**Grandpa:** Now, let me tell you about school. Well, I could talk about school forever. Ours had two rooms and all the grades and the strictest teachers ever on the planet.

**Chris:** I'm glad I wasn't in that school.

**Shandi:** What was your favourite subject?

**Myron:** Did you ever have homework?

**Grandpa:** I didn't have a favourite subject.....I hated school! The best part of school was Art and I still love to draw. I brought some of my work to show you.

**Grant:** What kind of clothes did you wear?

**Grandpa:** I was cool! Bell bottoms, tank tops, platform shoes, and my Afro. Those were the days. And now they're coming back. Just the other day I saw a hippie and it wasn't even Halloween. Still don't know how they walk on those platforms.  
*(Students with platforms demonstrate)*

**Teacher:** You were right, Myron, your grandpa has lots of stories to tell. Thanks Tom. Are you coming again with Jeremy and Jonathan? *(Grandpa nods)* Now, let's move on to our last presentation for the day. Jonathan H. and Shandi, who have you brought with you?

**Jonathan H.:** This is my great aunt Sally and she's still an activist and into politics. Just like she was over 30 years ago. My dad says she never grew up.

**Teacher:** Is Dad her big brother? *(JH nods)* Well, this should be exciting. We don't often see this around here.

**Great Aunt:** Hi Everyone! How's everyone today?

**Class:** *(Variety of responses.)*

**Great Aunt:** Are you wondering about my sign?

**Jonathan:** Aunt Sally is into "SAVING THE RIVER" these days.

**Great Aunt:** Saving the river is so important that I think everyone should be a part of it. If we let THEM build another dam our river will be destroyed forever. We don't want to change our river again!



**Shandi:** That's true. I want to canoe down that river when I'm as old as you and I won't be able to if another dam is built.

**Teacher:** Perhaps we can do a research project on the river problem. *(Aunt nods, some students groan, shake heads, etc.)*

**Maegan:** Hey! Let's write the premier and tell him we don't want another dam.

**Great Aunt:** I'll be glad to help. If everyone speaks up about problems like this, we can make the world a better place. *(Sighs)* Just like the 60's.

**Teacher:** Well, our time is almost up. Thank you all for your presentations. We'll hear the rest at our next class. It's a double period. Now, before we go, I asked Mrs. McLennon to come today to help us with a song I know you'll enjoy... .

*(Mrs. McLennon teaches/leads the song. Action freezes.)*

**Amy:** *(Steps out of the scene to front of stage, looks back at group on stage and says)*  
COOL, eh! *(Leaves stage.)*