

# Changing Tides in Cartwright

by

*H. G. A. Players  
Henry Gordon Academy  
Cartwright*

## Cast:

Event Organizer: George.....	Andrew Pardy-Paul
Adult 1: Steve .....	Aaron Dyson
Adult 2: Matilda .....	Kendra Driscoll
Adult 3: Bridget .....	Hailey Hamel-Dyson
Child 1: Steve .....	Jarod Dyson
Child 2: Matilda .....	Claire Sainsbury
Child 3: Bridget .....	Kiana Dyson
Siri .....	Kiana Dyson

Teacher Director: Ms. Meghan Gambin

*At the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Come Home Celebration in Cartwright, three former residents reflect on how much litter and trash has gathered in their quaint little town. After much reflection, the three reach out to the youth in the community in an effort to clean up the town. After initially casting the blame on the youth of the town, the three realize that they too are responsible for some of the mess. Together, old residents and young residents alike make a pledge to transform their town by coming together and clean up the town as a community, all while celebrating various organized events.*

## ACT ONE

*Lights: Left side of stage (when looking at the stage)*

*Setting: They arrive at the local park, a table is set up for the characters to sign up for events and receive their event pamphlets.*

*Music: ("The Teddy Bears Picnic". Let it play until first chorus)*

*Characters: George, Adult Matilda, Adult Bridget, Adult Steve*

**George:** Welcome, Matilda to our 30<sup>th</sup> come home year. How have you been these last couple of years?

**Matilda:** Thank you George, I have been great, how about you?

**George:** Good, good. Now if you want to go to the Teddy Bear Picnic, you have to fill out this form and you need to pay five dollars.

**Matilda:** Five dollars eh? Wasn't it only 4 dollars at the last come home?

**George:** Ah it was. But after all these years the teddy bears united and formed a union. Those teddy's got together and decided they wanted more than just honey. They come off as if they're all cuddly and sweet, but they've got bills to pay too.

*George hands Matilda the form and a pen. Matilda fills out the form and gives that and digs the 5 dollars out of her purse.*

**Matilda:** *[looking at George suspiciously]* Oh... okay. Well, I suppose those bears deserve the same rights as the rest of us.

**George:** Exactly! See you later, have a great day.

*George laughs to himself and pockets a Loonie for himself. Bridget and Steve go to the registration table.*

**George:** Hello, Bridget and Steve, how may I help you? Back for another year of teddy's and picnics are you? Hard to believe that it's the 30<sup>th</sup> come home year isn't it?

**Steve:** You know it George! We use to love these when we were younger. We are very excited to see the playground we loved so much. And 30<sup>th</sup> year, I know eh b'y! Can't believe how old we've all gotten. My nieces and nephews were showing me all about their iPod's and iPad's, enough to give me an iheadache!

**George:** Well, I am not sure it will be exactly as you remember...the litter has just about taken over the whole town. I can remember bits of it when we were younger but nothing like this. Anyways, enough of

me rambling, here is your form and it is five dollars each.

*Steve and Matilda look at each other suspiciously.*

**Steve:** Wasn't it 4...

**George:** *[seriously]* Teddy bear union fees. *[Sympathetically]* It's a complicated issue. *[Hands the forms to Steve and Bridget].*

**Bridget:** Thanks...

**George:** *[Manically to himself while pocketing the two extra dollars]* The teddy bears aren't the only ones having a picnic today, Mwahahaha!

*Bridget, Steve, Matilda all meet up at a picnic table.*

**Bridget:** Evenin' Steve and Matilda How was your day?

**Steve:** Good B'y! Sure is good to be home. Some things never change and that's just find and dandy with me. Seems like just the other day we was up here having a picnic with dem teddies. Am I right? Now it's our youngins who are out and about with their teddies

**Bridget:** Stevie I couldn't say it any better than that. Not only does home look the same it smells the same too. Just like I remember it. Mind you I can't help but notice garbage every which way I look. Was it that bad when we were young?

**Matilda:** Ahhh guys, I remember sitting at this exact table when I was a child. I use to love coming here, how about you guys? Remember all the afternoons we use to waste away just sitting here eating cookies and telling fibs?

**Steve:** Oh yes, I remember, I remember your mom's homemade cookies especially Matilda. The first bite was always a challenge. But once you got past that burnt taste you'd never know they were gawd awful. Remember that time Gus couldn't stomach the first one he had? *(laughing)* Tossed his cookies wha? Looked better coming out then it did going down eh?

*Steve laughs, the two other characters chime in.*

**Bridget:** Guys, look around, this is not what the park use to look like when we were here. The kids these days are so lazy. There is litter everywhere.

**Matilda:** I know what you mean Bridget, I don't even see kids walking by my house anymore. And just yesterday, when I did see one, he dropped his empty bag of potato chips right there on the ground! Had half a mind to run up to him and tell him to mind his manners... but I stayed rocking in my chair. Arthritis don't you know.

*[Starts to shake her head in disgust]*

**Bridget:** I know what you mean Matilda. Too busy eating their potato chips, and eating their ding-dongs. When's the last time you saw somebody outside with their tiddly winks, or hop scotchin? You don't! Too busy plugging away at their y box... or x box. And what's with this iPod? Always got them buds in their ears. Gonna be twice as deaf as we will in half the time! I tells ya, they could learn a thing or two from so ol fashion discipline and hard labor.

**Steve:** *[Nodding head in agreement]* Oh yes I agree with that one, my oldest grandson does nothing but fight dragons and steal cars on that darn game. What's that gonna get ya? Setting them up to be hooligans that's about it! I just wish the kids knew what they were missing.

*George walks over to the picnic table.*

**George:** Hey folks, I just came by to tell you that you can leave whenever you want, the teddy bear picnic will start at 8am tomorrow. I was also informed that theirs a small additional fee of an extra dollar. Turns out them teddy's haven't been getting any royalties on the "teddy bears picnic" theme song. So I... sorry to do this, but gonna need an extra buck from all of you.

**Matilda:** Who's in charge of all of this George, seems kinda fishy?

**George:** *[Nervously]* Umm... Ruxpin, Teddy Ruxpin. I'm just overseeing this for him. He's a very busy bear, I mean man, I mean teddy, Man. Teddy man. Bear...

**Bridget:** Ummm. Okay. Thanks George, we will see you tomorrow. *[Mouths "Weirdo"]*

*Characters walk off stage all but George.*

**George:** By golly George-y ol' boy you've still got it. *[singing]* "If you go down in the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise... Cause every bear has gathered today with dollar bills in their eyes"  
*[Laughing]* I'm rich!

*[Lights dim]*

**Short set change**

*[Add in music, blankets and teddy bears]*

## ACT TWO

### Scene 1

*LIGHTS: Left side of stage (when looking at the stage)*

*Music: Let the chorus of the teddy bear picnic theme song play*

*Setting: Present Day (Adults) In the local park.*

*Characters: George, Adult Matilda, Adult Bridget, Adult Steve*

**George:** Welcome everyone, this is where you came many moons ago for your teddy bear picnic. In keeping with tradition we have decided to host yet another one. Fees have gone up slightly this year, so I might be coming by to collect an extra dollar or two. Teddy Bears union don't you know.

**Bridget:** Oh my Gosh, this place is a state, worse than it was yesterday. Did it rain garbage since we left? This doesn't even make sense! I know we were no angels, but we couldn't have been this careless when we were there ago, could we?

**Steve:** I agree Bridget, People should learn to respect their community, the earth and be more careful eh m'dear? Look at how long the grass is, look at all the garbage everywhere. There is graffiti on the slides and no garbage cans. I tells ya, give me my youth back and I'd make a thing or two happen here I would.

**Matilda:** Yes, my son, this place use to be the cleanest spot in Cartwright and now it is nothing but a dump. Soon the black bears will be moving in here. Won't be such a picnic for the teddies then now will it?

**George:** Well, it has been like this for 5 long years. But it started getting worse before that. Been a growing cycle of neglect and laziness. The kids these days are not as active as they used to be. They would never take the time to care for our park and community anymore.

**Bridget:** Don't you guys remember when we were kids, this park was where we all went to play. Oh the times we had... If only we had a time machine where we could go back and see what it'd be like to be our younger selves playing here in this very spot.

*Lights Dim and Switch to Opposite side of stage, now highlighting the younger characters (flashback).*

## **Scene 2: Fuzzy Friends Flashback**

*Lights: Light are now highlighting the younger characters, left side of the stage when looking at the stage.*

*Setting: Thirty years earlier in the same local park.*

*Music: Teddy Bears picnic from end of first chorus to end of song.*

*Characters: Young Steve, Young Bridget and Young Matilda [Kids Playing Around]*

**Steve:** Hey! Let's go play in the Sandbox, I got new sand Castle buckets! *(seen throwing a wrapper on the ground)*

**Matilda:** Ok! Let's Go!

**Bridget:** Wait guys, where's the cookies? I'm hungry. *[While looking for the cookies throws some random items on the ground]*

**Steve:** *[gulping]* Are they Sue's? *[quietly]* I forgot my Pepto Bismol.

**Matilda:** My mom packed them in my picnic basket. She said she left them in the oven a little too long though. *[Takes cookies and discards basket]*

**Steve:** Good lord, help me.

**Matilda:** Let's get our teddy bears ready and go eat.

**Steve:** What about the sand castles?

**Matilda:** Steve, get over it, we will make them after we eat my mom's homemade chocolate chip cookies. You know they are your favorite. Plus, the teddy bear picnic is starting soon.

**Steve:** Alright then. Just give me a second to prepare myself.

**Bridget:** *[yells across the park, toward Steve and Matilda]* Hurry Up!

*Kids walk over to the picnic table with their teddy bears and cookies in hand. They start to eat their cookies. Steve downs his quickly and discretely.*

*Students are enjoying the music of the teddy bear picnic while eating their cookies.*

*Show ends.*

**Steve:** OK girls, let's throw away our garbage so we can keep our park and community clean and plus we don't want to be bad to our earth. *[To himself]* And I need to find a safe environmentally safe place to discard these cookies.

**Bridget:** Yes! That's right Steve. If we don't take care of it no one will.

*Kids throw away their garbage, Steve throws in a couple cookies while nobody is watching.*

*Flashback ends, the light switches from one side of the stage to the other.*

### **Scene 3: Present Day**

*Light: Light switches to opposite side of stage to highlight adult characters (right side of stage when looking at the stage)*

*Setting: In the park*

*Characters: Steve, George, Matilda, and Bridget*

**Matilda:** Yes, Bridget, I remember. Those were the good ole' days, when everything was clean and kids knew what a tree was and how to snare a rabbit. My mom sure did make the best cookies didn't she guys?

**Steve:** Uhhhhhh... you know I just had the same flashback as you. And I remember our younger selves not being so careful with our garbage. I think I recall us being fairly careless throwing things on the ground and not really caring. We have some room to grow too I'd say.

**Bridget:** You're right Steve! We should really clean this place up and make it look healthier. I bet if we tried we could get the community to help us clean.

**Steve:** Good idea ladies, we should get flyers to get their attention...oh wait...would flyers work anymore? Maybe we should put it on the interwebs. Maybe call up Google and ask them to Tweet it? It's a tweet right?

**Matilda:** I doubt it, how bout we ask one of the young kids to put it on Facebook. I bet that will get their attention.

**Bridget:** Yes, I bet Grandma Bessie granddaughter would do it. Let's go now.

**George:** Yeah, that's a very good idea. After you get that message posted on the Internet, you folks should head out and enjoy the boat tour. It's still owned by my family, and although the prices have gone up slightly the new additions are more than worth it.

*[Quietly laughs to himself]*

*George leaves. Lights Dim.*

*(Short Set Change: Add in kitchen table scene iPad and Final Jeopardy music)*

#### **Scene 4: Playing with an iPad**

*Lights: Left side of stage (when looking at the stage)*

*Music: Final Jeopardy music playing*

*Setting: At the kitchen table.*

*Characters: Adult Steve, Adult Matilda, Adult Bridget, Siri*

**Steve:** How do you turn this thing on? *[Looking at the iPad]*

**Bridget:** There must be a knob or a button, did you check round back?

**Matilda:** How is it going to work if it isn't plugged in. Don't we need to have it hooked up to a telephone cord or something?

**Bridget:** No, Matilda. You're thinking of a computer. This is that do-hicky, all the youngings are using now a days.

**Steve:** *[Shaking the iPad]* It's like one of dem etch-a-sketches ain't it? A good ol shake never hurt nothing.

**Matilda:** Steve! I don't think that's how you do it. Did you tried to ask it nicely?

**Bridget:** Matilda! It's not some kind of robot. I don't think you ask it things.

**Siri:** How may I help you?

**Steve:** Holy almighty! The devil-woman talks! What's it going to ask next? Get that bewitched device away from me.

**Matilda:** *[to the iPad]* We'd like to use the facebook to tell the kids in Cartwright about the clean up we're having planned how do we do this?

**Siri:** *[responds in a Siri way] (will be said offstage into mic by female character)* I'd rather not say. Good Luck!

**Bridget:** Oh no! I think we've upset her. What do we do now? I knew there was a reason I strayed away from technology and this Siri contraption is exactly it.

**Matilda:** You're right Bridget, this is too confusing. Let's just ask our grandchildren how to work this and then they can paste it on the facenovel thing. Come on, let's head back to my place before the boat trip. I'm going to bake us some cookies to take along with us. Mom's recipe!

*Matilda and Bridget leave.*

**Steve:** *[to iPad]* How do you tell someone their cookies are awful?

**Siri:** *[Siri responds as Steve walks away]* I can't do that for you, my apologies.

**Matilda:** *[off stage]* Come on Steve!

*The three leave and the lights dim, Short Set Change – Add in boat/shoreline scene.*

### **ACT THREE**

#### **Scene 1: Boat Tour**

*Lights: Left side of stage (when looking at the stage)*

*Setting: In a boat with the shoreline behind them.*

*Characters: George, Adult Matilda, Adult Steve, Adult Bridget*

**George:** Welcome to the boating dock. Today we will go on a journey to an island where I am sure many of you spent time as kids. The boil ups and skidooing was great there many years ago. If you haven't already paid your fees, me or one of my associates will be round to collect your dues. Happy boatin!

**Matilda:** Look how pretty this lake is. I bet the kids in the community love this area. Likely too busy staring into their com-puters looking at their facebooks, wasting their lives away without even knowing what sort of natural beauty awaits them outside. It'll be too soon if I see another iPad again!

**Steve:** Yeah, it is pretty, but look over there...there is a huge mess. I can see nothing but McDonalds and Wendy's and Kentucky Fried Mary Browns. Jumpin Joseph! Is there anything worth eating? Oh... Never mind, I think I see some of Matilda's cookies down yonder.

**Bridget:** Oh my what a mess! Garbage, grass, oil, it is so gross. What happened here? Don't they realize that it not only makes the community look dirty but it can also hurt the animals in area? *[loudly]* Won't somebody please think of the puffins?!

**George:** Well in the summer, people would come here and go swimming. When they were done they would throw their garbage in the water. I'm sure we were no better, but I'm thinking it got worse and worse as time went on. You know, monkey see monkey do sort of thing. After a while, it started to build up and not one person decided to tidy up the mess. I tried implementing a fine, \$5 for every piece of litter I seen. But I'd need a whole team of people watching all the litterbugs. And then that would increase wages, and hourly rates. Oh, a bundle could be made for sure!

**Bridget:** Anyways George... you think with all the technology and education people receive they would be more mature. But then again if it's anything like that iPad it's amazing they can get anything done. You would think they would actually take care of a place as beautiful as this. I really wish there wasn't so much of a mess here. It just riles up the blood! I know we're guilty of it too but we couldn't have been half this bad. Oh it angers me, straight up one side of me and down the udder.

**George:** Yes my darlin, but nobody would do a clean up of this area. I offered my own services, but they said I was charging too much. Can you imagine? It would involve them kiddies stepping away from their Nintendo or the world wide web for a few minutes. Today all the young care about it that Mario character and themselves. And don't you dare get me started about that Jersey Shore or them gosh darned Kardashians. Oh If I had a few of their pennies... *[Stares off in a dream like state]*

**Matilda:** Yeah, I noticed that when I came here. My niece's head and hands were glued to that phone/computer thing (the ear phone?) Couldn't maintain eye contact with me for more than 5 seconds at a time. And all the while, that gadget of hers was chirping every few seconds. Thought it was about to transform into a bird any moment!

**Bridget:** Do you remember when we were kids and we would swim in this very lake? Gosh, if only we had access to that time machine again. Oh the memories we could recall...

## **Scene 2: Shoreline Flashback**

*Light: Light switch to opposite side of stage (right side of stage when looking at the stage) to highlight the young characters.*

*Setting: Near the shoreline. Children are playing.*

*Characters: Steve, Bridget and Matilda*

**Bridget:** Wow, today is so nice out. Not a bit of fog.

**Steve:** Yes, it is beautiful out, my mudder said this may be the only nice day this week. ‘Member last summer when we had that nice sunny day? Oh... that was sweet!

**Matilda:** Well you should stay out all day. Let’s go for a swim and have a bonfire later. Maybe we can convince my mom to make us some of her delicious cookies.

**Steve:** *[gagging to himself]* That sounds great but let’s get everything we need first before we hop in. *(to himself)* Must remember my Pepto.

**Bridget:** I will find some wood to use. Matildia, you want to build the pit?

**Steve:** I will run home a grab some REAL snacks.

**Matilda:** Great, we will meet back here in a ½ hour.

*Kids 3 and 2 run off, Matildia starts to build fire pit out of rocks.*

**Steve:** I am back, I got hot dogs, marshmallows, and Pepto... I mean Pepsi. Yummy delicious Pepsi!

**Matilda:** What are we going to do with all of this trash. I don’t see a tin anywhere. We can’t just leave it on the ground, or in the water... can we?

**Steve:** *[throwing his cookies on the ground]* What’s with the what what?

**Bridget:** We’ll just leave it here for now, and then after we swim we’ll pick it up! Let’s try and not forget.. but if we do, we’ll come back tomorrow! Or the next day. Let’s swim. Last one in is a dirty capelin!

*Kids run toward water; Flashback ends, lights dim.*

*(Short Set Change: Take out boat/shoreline – add in park scene again)*

## **ACT FOUR**

### **Scene 1: Closing Ceremonies**

*Lights: on the entire stage*

*Music: Traditional music playing in the background*

*Setting: The adults, including George have found themselves back at the park for the closing ceremonies.*

*Characters: George, Matilda, Steve, Bridget*

*(Note: Youth characters will arrive in this scene to help with the closing ceremony clean up)*

**George:** I hope you enjoyed your weekend of family fun here in Cartwright. I know a lot of you took a trip down memory lane with the Teddy Bear Picnic and Boat tour. The proceeds I was able to collect will add an extra floor to my house, which will mean an even better picnic next year! We were very happy to have you back.

**Bridget:** *[looks to her friends]* I really enjoyed come home year this year! I hope we can do this again soon.

**Steve:** I agree that would be great, we are all getting older now it is best to spend as much time with friends and family as possible.

**Matilda:** We should do this again next year.

**Everyone:** Yes!

**Steve:** What about the mess at the park and by the lake?

**Bridget:** We should clean it up?

**Matilda:** It is such a big job, do you think that Facebook-y thing worked? How long does it take for it to get on the interwebs after it's been put up? Few days?

*The adults hear noises and look behind, a number of community members have shown up with garbage bags and decided to help.*

*The clean up starts.*

**The Next Day....**

*You see Steve with a couple of younger kids telling them stories.*

*You see Matildia making cookies. Steve looks over at Matilda and points at her cooking. He shakes his head at the youth as in "stay away from those cookies"*

*You see Bridget playing with a teddy with other kids and their teddies.*

**George:** Yes, when everyone gets together real change can be made. If we all set out to teach a common

goal we can make something happen. We can transform Cartwright back into the beautiful place it once was. Seeing you kids here today 'long side us ol' folk really warms the heart. Us working together will set things right for when you guys have younguns. And if we learn anything here today, then hopefully they won't trail out of our memories eh? Am I right? We got to keep things clean, cause this is the only Cartwright we got. And it's not quite perfect but it's so close it scares me. Am I right? Now, everyone gather round and I'll get a group photo. Come see me after it's taken and I'll give everyone a copy... \$1 a pop!

**The End**