

The Lahn Family

37 Garden Avenue ❄ Scarborough Ontario ❄ M1S 1Z8 ❄ (416)299-5507

Christmas 1994

To all our friends this Christmas,

Dear David & Kathy,

Well, it's hard to believe that the Christmas season is once again fast approaching. As our minister, Paul Johansen said on Sunday, the first sign of Christmas is not the snow, or the cold, but the Toblerone commercials from Swiss Chalet, and the "Give Like Santa – Save Like Scrooge" Canadian Tire gems. That said, the lights are once again up outside 37 Garden Ave, and the inside decorations are decking our halls – Christmas *must* be just around the corner!



We hope this Christmas season finds you all happy and well. We know that some of you will have experienced major disruptions in your lives – lost jobs, lost friends, or family that has passed on. Others will have experienced the great joy of new friends, new family relations, and even new little children around the house.

Our family has experienced both these ups and downs this year. Last Christmas, Murray's Dad, Gerald, was not well, and suffered another stroke in January. On February 7th he succumbed to a severe pneumonia, after being in hospital for about 3 weeks. While we were all saddened at his passing, we are thankful that he has been released from the body which had entrapped him during his 8½ year struggle. He can now sing with the heavenly choir (in the tenor section) and watch over his beloved grandchildren from above.

This Christmas we are rejoicing with Nancy's sister and brother-in-law, Brenda and David, who after 8 years of longing for a second child, have been blessed with the adoption of Heather Lee Michaela Duncan, who was born on October 21st. While little Heather was adopted right here in Ontario, Brenda and David are also anticipating the arrival of another child from Guatemala. So after such a long wait, very soon they will likely be caring for "virtual twin" girls, only 4 months apart in age! We continue to pray that all will go well in this adoption, as it has so far in Heather's.

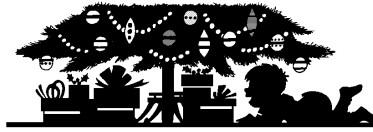


As for our family, all are doing well. Jordan is now 7½ years old and in grade 2. His artistic talent has seen him enrolled in a special art class on Saturday morning, which he thoroughly loves. Timothy has started Junior Kindergarten this year and is 4½.

Like Jordan, he loves school and the interaction with other kids. Tim is the generally the athlete, and Jordan the artist, but this fall they *both* surprised us when Jordan received the MVP award for his T-Ball team, while Tim won a city wide art contest! Oh well, so much for pigeon-holing them at an early age.

Daniel is now 22 months old, and has entered the "terrible two's" very early. He tries so hard to keep up with Tim and Jordan, and spends a great deal of his energy yelling his desires to be heard above the happy din. He is starting to talk now and carries on very serious conversations with Dad and Mom, usually about the kitty or about Barney ("Barn") and Baby Bop ("Be Bop") – his favourite TV show (much to his father's chagrin).

Besides the kids, life has been very busy around 37 Garden Ave. In March, Nancy and Murray both officially started small businesses. Murray's business, Shepherd Software Services, hasn't gone too far yet, mostly because he can't find time to promote it, but once he does, it will specialize in small desktop publishing jobs. On the other hand Nancy's business, Cozy Cuddles Baby Products, has taken off like a rocket.



Cozy Cuddles Baby Products manufactures and sells the Cozy Cuddles Nursing Pillow, a C-Shaped pillow used by nursing moms. Nancy tried one during her feeding of Daniel, and redesigned it, and marketed it to hospitals, lactation consultants and breastfeeding clinics throughout Toronto. Since startup she has sold nearly 200 pillows – about twice what we had *hoped* for when she initially set out. She is now researching having the actual pillow manufacturing outsourced to another company, so she can concentrate on the zippered pillow cases, which come in a wide variety of designer fabrics, in both cotton/polyester and cozy flannelette. (This ends our commercial message. We now return to our regularly scheduled Christmas letter....) On top of all this, Nancy continues to teach Prenatal classes for Scarborough Grace Hospital.

Murray continues to work for Imperial Oil Limited, and is responsible for the ongoing management of the coast-to-coast computer network, and for the strategic changes in it. Things are extremely busy! Recently, Murray's group moved to a new location in Toronto, and he is delighted that he is now only 12 minutes from home.

The big summer pastime this year was bike riding. Jordan and Tim both got two wheelers (Tim's still with training wheels) and Murray and Nancy bought new bikes from Murray's brother Randy (whose sporting goods store in London is doing well, despite the slow economy). Daniel received the place of honour in a fluorescent yellow tag-along cart that pulls behind Dad's bike. Outings around the parks in Toronto and along the roads by the lake up at the cottage, including picnics, provided lots of fun, exercise, and enjoyment for all.



Just this week, Good Shepherd Community Church celebrated its 14th anniversary. Our whole family has been blessed in countless ways through this fellowship with God's people. We continue to be involved in the King's Kids Choir, the music ministry of Praise and Worship, the sound system, adult home Bible Study, and a new Mom's and Tot's group focusing on Christian parenting.

Now summer has gone for another year, and the bikes are put away. The snow shovels lie in wait, the lights and decorations are all up, and the Toblerones sit on the counter. But have we really prepared for Christmas? How much more important it is that we prepare our *hearts* for the arrival of God's Gift to all of us.



***Who shall come in the fullness of time to
gladden the hearts of men?
Who shall bring new joy to the world
and the poor and lonely defend?
Who shall come on a cold winter's night,
when the work is hushed and still?
Only the silent stars keep watch
as a promise is fulfilled.
Just as a Child newly born He shall come
to a stable rough with sod.
'Tis gentle Jesus, Prince of Peace,
the blessed Son of God!***



"Who Shall Come" by Mary E. Caldwell

May God's joy, peace and blessings be yours this Christmas and in the coming year,

Murray + Nancy Jordan Tim & Daniel

Murray, Nancy, Jordan, Timothy and Daniel