



Christmas Greetings 2012 From the Lahns

Greetings from our home to yours in this wonderful Christmas season! Even though we might lament the fact that it gets dark so early this time of year, we can look at the bright side: "All the better to see the Christmas lights!" - all 9,756 (give or take a bunch) of them around the Lahn homestead! Murray is of the firm conviction that "There is no such thing as too many Christmas lights!"

We so look forward to the daily mail delivery which brings your cards and news of your lives this past year. We appreciate the chance to rejoice with you in the your good news, and to share your sorrow in the difficult times you have experienced.



Our year, too, has been a mixture of light and shadow. On October 15, precious little Gabriela Jade was born to Nancy's niece, Kristen and husband, Rolando, making Nancy and Murray delighted great-aunt and uncle, and Nancy's brother Grant and sister-in-law Jane over-the-moon grandparents! The joy of Gabriela's arrival has been a great comfort to our family as we all are so keenly feeling the loss of Nancy's Dad to cancer in April. In the midst of our sorrow, we have been so touched by the kindness, concern and practical expressions of love from you, our dear friends and family members. We have been so supported by your prayers, and continue to covet them especially for Nancy's Mum, who is finding the loss of her dear husband of 64 years very difficult, and is making her home with us for the time being.

At this time last year, we were still searching for a church home, and we are happy to report this year that the Lord has led us to a new church family, The Bridge in Markham. Murray is thrilled to be back singing and playing acoustic guitar in one of the worship bands, and we're leading a small group fellowship in our home which has been a huge blessing.



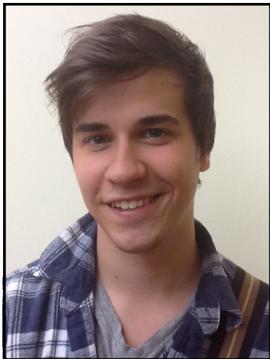
Our Himalayans, Mocha and Misty

Work for Murray has been challenging, both because of the complexity of the task and because of the TTC commute (we suspect that stands for "Trials and Tribulations of Commuting"!) Nancy continues to enjoy her work as Prenatal Coordinator at the Pregnancy Care Centre, and running her home business, Cozy Cuddles Baby Products.



Our Shih-Pom, Jazz

Daniel



This past September I began my first semester at Ryerson University as a Film Studies student. I've learned how to load a World War II camera, I've learned how to cut film, and most importantly, I've learned that I really hate to do both of those things! This is pretty good for me, since those are both dead or dying art forms and I won't have to deal with them for much longer. Other than learning out-of-date practices, I'm really enjoying my time at Ryerson.

In previous years I've written about my adventures in rock music, rap music or comics with my best friend Johnny Keidann, but this year I can't tell you about any of those things since Johnny went away to school in British Columbia. But my performances have not stopped because I lost the Wayne to my Shuster, at the last Stay Golden event - a non-profit concert organized by members of the Agincourt Baptist Youth Group - I stepped on to the stage as a solo act, singing covers of popular songs and performing my very own spoken word poem entitled 'I am a Balloon'.

I've started leading worship at Agincourt Baptist Church on the youth praise team, eloquently called Praise-Ba-Bomb by the congregation after a joke from the comic Scott Pilgrim vs. The World, but they still haven't caught on. I lead almost every Sunday morning, and when I'm not, I try to spend my weekends with my lovely girlfriend Jessica.





Jordan & Rachel

This has been an interesting year for Rachel and me. Rachel finished her University degree and graduated on the Dean's List for Academic Excellence. All of her hard work these past 3 years put me to shame, and I'm constantly impressed with her.

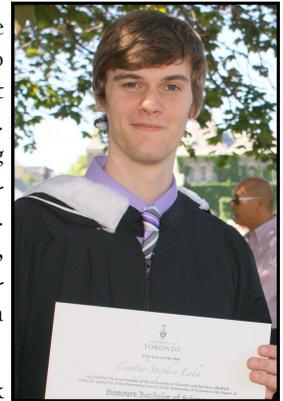
Over the summer, we celebrated our First Anniversary with a week long trip to Ottawa, where we visited the museums and shopping centers before taking in a special live Orchestral performance of the music from the Lord of the Rings movies. When we got home, we found a present from the government: almost exactly one year later our marriage certificate FINALLY arrived.

As the summer wound to a close, we decided that in order to begin seriously searching for jobs in our career fields we needed to move back from Thunder Bay and take advantage of the opportunities in the GTA. It turns out that jobs are just as difficult to find here in Toronto as they are everywhere else, so as the New Year approaches, we find ourselves once again looking ahead to the future with uncertainty. Who knows what 2013 will bring, but whatever it brings we will face it together.



Tim

Hey everyone! This past year has been a fantastic one so far. In the Spring, I graduated from UofT and also found out that I'd been accepted into the program at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College. Classes started in September, so I've been studying there for a few months now, and I love it! It's a fantastic program, and the people there are all great. The workload is very heavy, and I rarely see the sun, but I'm having a blast and learning a ton in the process. With any luck, in four years I'll be able to put a "Dr" in front of my name and a "DC" behind it!



I spent most of my summer working at the book store to help cover the costs of school, but there was time for fun in there as well. I went on a weekend camping trip with some friends at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, which was definitely a highlight. I also spent some time writing and recording music, as I often do. I didn't finish my CD like I'd hoped, but there's always next summer!

I hope you all have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bethany



After the play with Grandma

Oh no! Is 2012 almost over already! It cannot be. It's amazing to think of all the things that have happened this year. I've still been doing my sports: Basketball, volleyball, soccer, and swimming. I've had a lot of opportunities to sing for different churches and also at a few events.

Right now I am attending two youth groups. On Wednesdays I attend The Bridge's "Fearless". And my Fridays are always reserved for my "second family", my youth group at Agincourt Pentecostal Church.

I've been pushed and stretched this year in regards to my academics, athletics, relationships, and faith. God has helped me grow all through this year and one fun thing that was a big challenge for me was when I got to be one of the leads in our school's play - Archie and the Wallflower. It was a huge stretch and I was very nervous, but every performance went amazing and I received amazing feedback! I hope all of your years have been filled with growth. God Bless ~ Psalm 71:5-8

In our increasingly pluralistic society, many may ask, "What is the meaning of Christmas, anyway?" Many years ago, Nancy's Dad wrote these profound words...

"All other religious faiths are based on the premise that Salvation is the result of Man Seeking God – sometimes through nature, sometimes through reason alone, sometimes through the obliteration of all desires, the suppression of God-given natural instincts. Christianity is unique in its proclamation of the incredible truth that salvation is the gracious gift of a loving God. It declares that the Good Shepherd has counted His sheep, finds one missing, and sends His own Son to seek and to save that which was lost. Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift! Surely this is the message and meaning of Christmas."

Wishing you a blessed Christmas!!

