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# Merry Christmas 2019

## from The Lahns

What ever happened to 2019? It's so hard to believe as I read through last year's letter that in 2018 we welcomed a new son-in-law, and two granddaughters.

In 2019 we continued that tradition with 1 new grandson, a 95th Birthday Party, 3 housing events, 2 new kittens, and another grandchild on the way!!! I guess we'd better explain those a little further.



On March 7th we welcomed Landon James Lahn into the family, a son for Daniel and Jessa, our third grandchild and 1st grandson! What a joy to be able to watch him grow and develop over the past 9 months; to see him laugh, especially at Dad and Grandpa.



Our two granddaughters, Arya and Melody have been so much fun to have around. Arya has been walking for a couple of months now and is quite the independent young lady. Melody is chock full of smiles and giggles and enjoys watching all the activity around her and scooting around on her bottom.

In November we celebrated their joint 1st Birthday by having a combined party at our home with all the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and even some of the great-grandparents!

The big news of the day however was when Jordan and Rachel announced that Melody was going to be promoted to "Big Sister" around mid-May 2020!! With all the family together it was great to have the surprise announced to all simultaneously!!



So next year we'll be announcing the birth of another grandchild, currently only known as "Peanut".

On the housing front, in August Daniel and Jess decided that they were thinking of "a lifestyle change". Their plan was to rent out the house they currently own and move into a 'tiny house' in order to save money. The tiny home would be parked on Jess's parents property and so in late November (the day before leaving on a cruise!) they bought a quite spacious 36' trailer that will be home



until they can eventually build somewhere else in the Brantford area. Making this change will allow Daniel to reassess his career and free up resources to allow that to happen.



Bethany and Tyler, also in Brantford, were overjoyed to move into their new home in mid-November—a lovely 1.5 storey home with a big backyard and lots of places for their cats, Niko and Milo, to explore, especially in the unfinished basement!! Because the previous owners (who live right next door!) had been renting the property it had been kept up wonderfully and they were able to get a good deal due a 2.5 week closing!!!



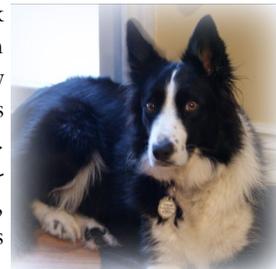


Tim and Rachel and Arya didn't move. However, Tim changed chiropractic clinics in the summer and so now works at Complete Care Chiropractic in Barrie. In October he was chosen as one of the Top 3 Chiropractors in Barrie for 2019 by ThreeBestRated.ca! A great honour, as this is chosen not on votes/popularity, but on a number of factors. Rachel started back to work in November and has been adjusting to daily life with Arya in daycare, but was very surprised and pleased by a significant promotion at work upon her return!!



However on November 26th we adopted two hypoallergenic Balinese kittens (10 weeks old) from a nearby breeder. So cute and friendly! Gizmo

(blue-point male) and Trinket (chocolate-point female) are brother and sister and just love to cuddle—with us and with each other. They have been a great help to Murray as he continues to work from home (and in fact helped many times to write this newsletter!). Our 4 year old Border Collie, Chloe, just loves them as well :)



At almost the same time, Jordan and Rachel and Melody (and 'Peanut') put an offer on a home in Simcoe which was accepted! They got a good deal because they were flexible in their moving date, and so the closing is 'sometime before April 30th'. With their 2nd child on the way for mid-May, and Rachel having delivered Melody a couple weeks early, we're hoping the 'sometime before' comes sooner rather than later!



Nancy continues to enjoy her work with Chapel Ridge Funeral Home working down at Shepherd Village. She spends her time helping pre-plan funerals, leading Bible studies and hymn sings, helping with the funerals, and interacting with the residents—especially those suffering from loss. She also continues to volunteer as a prenatal teach at the North York Pregnancy Centre.



Also in November we celebrated Nancy's Mom's 95th Birthday with a small family gathering down at Shepherd Village. It was a lovely time as Great-Grandma Clarke got to see Melody and Arya and some of the family.

Murray is enjoying continuing to work as an SAP Consultant and has enjoyed his being able to work from home for the past year.

In June we had to say goodbye to Mocha, our 17 year old Himalayan sweetheart. She had been suffering for a few months and we made the painful decision to let her rest. It was a very sad day indeed, especially since we'd said goodbye to Misty 16 months earlier.

Both Murray and Nancy volunteer at the church in various ministries and have started to volunteer with Compassion Canada, helping encourage others to sponsor children in poverty around the world.

There's something about a baby... a baby can soften the hardest of hearts. Could it be that this is why Almighty God chose to come to earth not in power, but in weakness? In the words of the beautiful song, "Baby King"...

*All hail the coming of Jesus, Lord of all, small and defenseless  
Power came swaddled in meekness to make us feel safe,  
He came as a Baby King.*

May we embrace the Lord Jesus this Christmas with all our hearts, for only then can we walk in His strength to share His light of hope in this dark world.

*Joy and peace this Christmas and in 2020!*

*The Lahns*

