## CLERGY COMMENT—

## A lesson taught by a baby

By Richard E. Ruggle, Rector St. Paul's Anglican Church, Norval

Christmas is the happy celebration of one of the oldest and greatest of God's miracles-the birth of a new-born baby. Every father and mother shares in the continuing creation, when they use the awesome power God has given them to bring into being a new person. Mary and Joseph must have been excited, and uncertain, about what was happening.

Any parent wonders at his and her responsibilitywhat will become of the child? Will I be able to give the infant the love and the care and the teaching and the security it will need through its first years? A baby fills its parents with hopes and fears.

All that must have happened when Jesus was born: the worry about giving birth in a stable - and the magi's warning that King Herod wanted to kill the child - made heavy the usual cares of every parent.

Yel in another way, the wonder of new birth was magnified a thousand times that night in Bethlehem. As the carol says, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee lonight." For here God emptied himself and took on our human form-he was born as one of us, our brother. Here will be the test of our humanity, to see whether a man can attain the sort of life God intends for us.

GREAT EXPERIMENT

The world did not have to wait 30 years to discover the result of the great experiment, for we can see in the day-old child something of the way God made us. The baby Jesus depended for survival on his mother's milk, and on the shelter won by his father's work. The animals who shared the stable-the sheep and the oxen-had quickly learned to fend for themselves; but the human child continues to need others to grow and to learn and even to live.

The young child with his big eyes can teach us too a sense of awe and wonder at our world. And he can share his innocence with us: his ability to forget the pains of life, to forgive the hurts, and to rejoice in the happiness of life. The firstborn son, wrapped in swaddling clothes, reminds us of the frailty of human life; and as the child grows older, he shares those human qualities which we too often shed and teave behind us-the innocence of youth, its curiosity and sense of wonder, its ability to forgive, its happiness. Years later. Jesus would urge us to become in these ways like little children.

COLD AND DISCOMFORT

There was cold and discomfort when Mary and Joseph were excluded from the inn, and there would be pain later in Jesus' life when men excluded him from their hearts-left him no room there-and tried to rid themselves of him by putting him to death. They wanted to go their own way and do their own thing, to ignore the message that Jesus' birth symbolized and that his teaching insisted on-that we depend on others and on God, and that our pretentions of independence are a sham which will harm others and hurt ourselves.

Yet even though we only feebly grasp the message to make it our own, still it gives us hope. Jesus' birth is humanity's rebirth; here God has touched the earth, and the earth is changed by his touch. Like the shepherds bewildered by the angel chorus, we may sense the mystery of Christmas night more than we understand it.

The message of Christmas is not what we should do, so much as what God has done--not so much "be good" as "be of good cheer". May the message of the Christ-child cheer you this Christmas.



**CUBS GO SCOUTING FOR TRASH** 

(Herald photo)

Members of the 4th Georgetown Wolf Cubs took their turn cleaning the litter up to earn star awards. Taking part in Saturday at cleaning up the stretch of Highway 7 in front of the Saturday's clean-up were Lance and Lee Shields, Paul Tufford, Dominion Seed House. The different packs in town take turns Doyle Butterfield, Greg Mills and Chris Lee.

## Toronto columnist dies at 68

Don O'Hearn, Thomson Newspapers' long-time Queen's Park columnist, died Sunday at Central Hospital, Toronto, He was 68.

Mr. O'Hearn, who had covered the Legislature for more than 30 years, was described by Ontario Premier Bill Davis as "a legend...(who) worked hard and played hard. the last of an era ...

He was cremated following (uneral mass at St. Basil's Church, Bay Street, Toronto, Tuesday morning.

Premier Davis, speaking in the legislature, said : "Though the years, premiers, leaders of the opposition, MPPs, civil servants and press gallery colleagues have turned to Don as a confidante, respectful of his wit and wisdom, his knowledge and insight.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE The Regional Municipality of Halton TIPPING FEES AT REGIONAL

On Wednesday November 5, 1980 the Regional Council of the Regional Municipality of Halton formally passed the following motion: "THAT THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTES AT REGIONAL LANDFILL SITES BE INCREASED FROM \$9.50/ton to \$12.50 per ton, and such an increase to be effective January 1, 1981.

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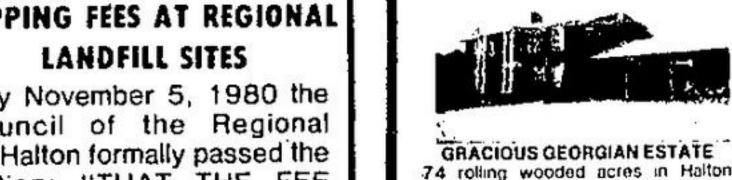
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R.W.J. Moore, P. Eng Director of Public Works



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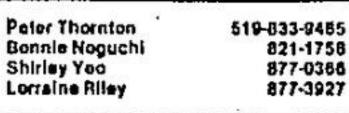
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