

# Technology helps assemble history



The introduction of new computer software is making it easier for people to piece together their family history.

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from?  
"That sort of thing. I got a rather lukewarm reaction and the impression it wasn't too important."

Not long after finding the book, during a visit to his father's home in England, Philip began the painstaking process of piecing the Pack puzzle together.

"We had little index cards of information we found in town hall records, parish records, that kind of thing," he said.

*'Technology has made all the difference. It's really night and day, the benefits technology brings to this hobby.'*

"My dad would put them together in family groups. And you know, when I began working with the com-

puter and compiling the same information, I found he was pretty close."

In addition to census records for both Canada and Devon, England, Philip has also worked with the records maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The Mormons have the world's largest database of family names and vital statistics, gathered from around the world.

They believe family members stay united even after death.

So important are these connections the church makes a concerted effort to compile whatever records it can.

These records are available at the church's Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah and at Family History Centres throughout the world.

They can also be researched through the FamilySearch(r) International Genealogical Index at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

"Technology has made all the difference," said Philip.

"It's really night and day, the benefits technology brings to

this hobby.  
"With the Internet, you end up chatting with all sorts of like-minded souls who give you good ideas or, in some cases, help you outright."

"I found a gentleman in Plymouth, England, who sent me 32 pages of information plus some obituaries."

So far, Philip has found connections in Newfoundland, Dawson's Creek in the Yukon, B.C. and Ontario.

He is still hunting for connections to a Peter Pack but, so far, they have proven somewhat elusive.

But he plows on. It is his hobby, his work in progress and a way of learning more about his roots.

In addition, rather than dry records of names and vital statistics, Philip has discovered some intriguing characteristics shared by Packs.

For example, a commitment to a church community, a deep and abiding interest in music of all kinds, a propensity for long talks on the telephone, and the ability to participate in several conversations at once.

*'Through this work, I guess I have become something of a catalyst for rejoining the lost branches of the North American family.'*

"Through this work, I guess I have become something of a catalyst for rejoining the lost branches of the North American family," he said, with a touch of a laugh.

"I consider it a singular hon-

our."  
For families whose roots are closer to home, the York Region Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has compiled an extensive collection of material.

That collection is housed at the Richmond Hill Central Library.

The branch's website also contains a wealth of information about York Region ancestors.

The site also has a host of

links to other genealogical websites.

Check out the site at [www.rootsweb.com/~onrbogs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~onrbogs).

The branch's next meeting will be held Feb. 14 at 7:15 p.m. at Alexander Mackenzie High School in Richmond Hill.

Philip and Esther plan to visit Newfoundland next year. They hope to make a stop in Ontario.

"We'll have the kettle on and the piano warmed up.

Be a Big Brother



it's kids stuff.

905-727-1251

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## Important Notice

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Public Information Meetings

Town of Markham

### Elementary School Attendance Boundary Review

The York Region District School Board will be hosting a Public Meeting Open House to share information and gather input regarding proposed changes to the long term attendance boundaries for elementary schools serving the Town of Markham, south of Highway 407, east of Middlefield Road as a result of the proposed opening of a new school on Fonda Road in September 2001.

Public Information Meeting will be held:

- Tuesday, December 5, 2000 7-8 pm  
Boxwood Public School  
30 Boxwood Crescent,  
Markham, Ontario  
(905)294-5563



www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Bill Crothers  
Chair of the Board

Bill Hogarth  
Director of Education

### Bereaved Families of Ontario

York Region

An association of families who have lost a child through death.

Founded in 1978, under the auspices of the Hospital for Sick Children, Bereaved Families is a self-help organization staffed by bereaved persons. Specialists in the area of grief and bereavement from the professional community serve as a resource both in the development of on-going programmes and in the supervision and training of self-help group leaders.

This co-operation between lay and professionals has enabled Bereaved Families to better respond to the needs of the bereaved and has helped guarantee that the best support is provided.

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