



# TORONTO TREE

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**Branch meetings in 2011 will be held in the Burgundy Room, North York Memorial Hall, North York Centre (North York Centre Subway Station) Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.**

## TORONTO BRANCH MEETINGS

### HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND FAMILY HISTORY

Dr. Kris Inwood and Dr. Andrew Ross

*25 April 2011*

A project headquartered at the University of Guelph is using the province's high-performance computing grid to follow hundreds of thousands of Canadians from one census database to another.

Mini-presentation: Linda Reid: "Researching Friends and Associates: A War Story"

### USING TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Carol Nichols

*30 May 2011* [Note the later than usual date]

How can computers and the internet help you gather genealogical facts, photos and background information to fill in your stories or lead you in new directions.

Mini-presentation: Evelyn Kidd: "What You Find When You Aren't Even Looking"

### CONSERVING, PRESERVING, AND RESTORING YOUR HERITAGE

Kennis Kim

*27 June 2011*

Professional conservator Kennis Kim tells us how to be custodians of our family history. Topics discussed include: creating an accession list; the nature of conservation, restoration, and preservation; deciding on display, storage, or using the artifact; common threats such as light, humidity, insects, and rodents; and when to call in a professional.

Mini-presentation: Marian Press: "Using the Databases on the TPL Web Site"

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Our November 28 meeting will be the 5th "Great Moments" event hosted by Toronto Branch. Ten members will present short (5-6 minute) upbeat presentations about something that excited them in their research. If you would like to be on the roster for next November, please contact Linda Reid at reidlinda@rogers.com. Don't let technology be a stumbling block – if you've got a story we can help you scan relevant documents and put them into PowerPoint. Just ask.

**BREAKING NEWS:** There will be a lecture by Chris Paton, the main speaker at our Scottish Family History Workshop, on the evening of Thursday, June 16, 2011 on the topic "Irish Records Online." Full details on location and time are not yet available. Full information, when known, will appear on:  
[www.torontofamilyhistory.org](http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org)

## ON-LINE MAPS WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

*Pierce Reid OGS 14043*

There are a number of web sites that offer maps of many parts of the world. The sites generally offer satellite images and many also offer additional views of neighbourhoods. For genealogists wanting to see where their ancestors lived, these can be useful, if the areas have not changed much since their time.

(To understand some of the suggestions here, you should be looking at the appropriate web site.)

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*Google Maps* is probably the best known, with the most extensive coverage of the world. In addition to satellite maps, it also has Street View for much of the US and Canada, as well as cities and towns around the world. These are images taken from a car, with special cameras mounted on top, which drive around city streets, taking 360 degree photographs every 100 yards or so. You can follow the car's route and rotate the views to see down the street and both sides. To access Street View, use the icon of a little man at the top of the zoom scale at one side. Simply click and hold the icon, and it will lean to the right. You can now drag it to the highlighted street you wish to view. Then let go.

*Google*, or rather *Google Maps* users, have added many photographs to the maps, which are often a good alternative for places that do not have Street View images. You can drag the little man around the map to find the pictures, which initially show up as little blue dots. Note that user content may not be located correctly on the map. Some user content is in the local language, so under the "More" menu there is a "Translate" option (hold the Ctrl key as you click on "Translate" to open a new browser tab or window). You cannot copy text directly from the map (it is all just an image) but other text can be copied into the Translate box to get English.

You may have read about the controversy these cars created in some towns, where people were worried about privacy. Google has since blurred faces of people, licence plates of cars, and some house numbers.

*Google Earth* started as a separate mapping project, although some of its features are being integrated into *Google Maps*, and some *Google Maps* features have been added to *Google Earth* (version 6 Beta), for example, Street View. *Google Earth* does not operate in a browser, but requires a separate download of a program. It has a useful feature that lets the user see a map as if viewed from an angle, rather than straight down. Use the controls in the upper right of the display to "tilt" the map (these controls are in a faint outline until you move the cursor over them). This gives a perspective of the hills and valleys and helps you understand the topography of your ancestors' neighbourhoods. This "3-D view" is simulated by applying elevation data to the satellite map. Tilt

the map far enough and it becomes a Street View, if one is available. Note that the elevation of the point under your cursor is displayed at the bottom of the map (if the View menu has Status Bar selected).

*Bing Maps* from Microsoft offer Bird's Eye Views for North America and parts of Europe. These are images taken from airplanes looking at an angle of about 45 degrees, so that you can see sides of buildings, including back yards.\* You can rotate the view to see all four sides of buildings.

All mapping sites seem to be evolving, with more detail and features added frequently. *Google*, being the most popular, gets a lot of user content, including photos. *Google* also keeps adding enhancements to its systems.

Major mapping web sites (with features):

Google Maps: [maps.google.ca](http://maps.google.ca) – includes Street View, many photographs

Google Earth: [earth.google.com](http://earth.google.com) – (for download), includes tilting, and many other features

Bing (Microsoft): [www.bing.com/maps](http://www.bing.com/maps) – Bird's eye view, rather than satellite view, where available

National Geographic: [maps.nationalgeographic.com/maps](http://maps.nationalgeographic.com/maps) – Bird's eye view (from Microsoft), currently without a working search feature.

Yahoo: [ca.maps.yahoo.com](http://ca.maps.yahoo.com) – Satellite view (may not allow zooming in close)

Ask.com: [www.ask.com/maps](http://www.ask.com/maps) – Satellite view, Bing's Bird's eye view (limited)

Mapquest: [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) – 360 Degree view (similar to Street View)

\* Paul Jones demonstrated this feature in his "Great Moments" presentation at the November 2010 meeting of Toronto Branch. He showed that a back yard he thought might be the site of a photo was, in fact, not suitable.