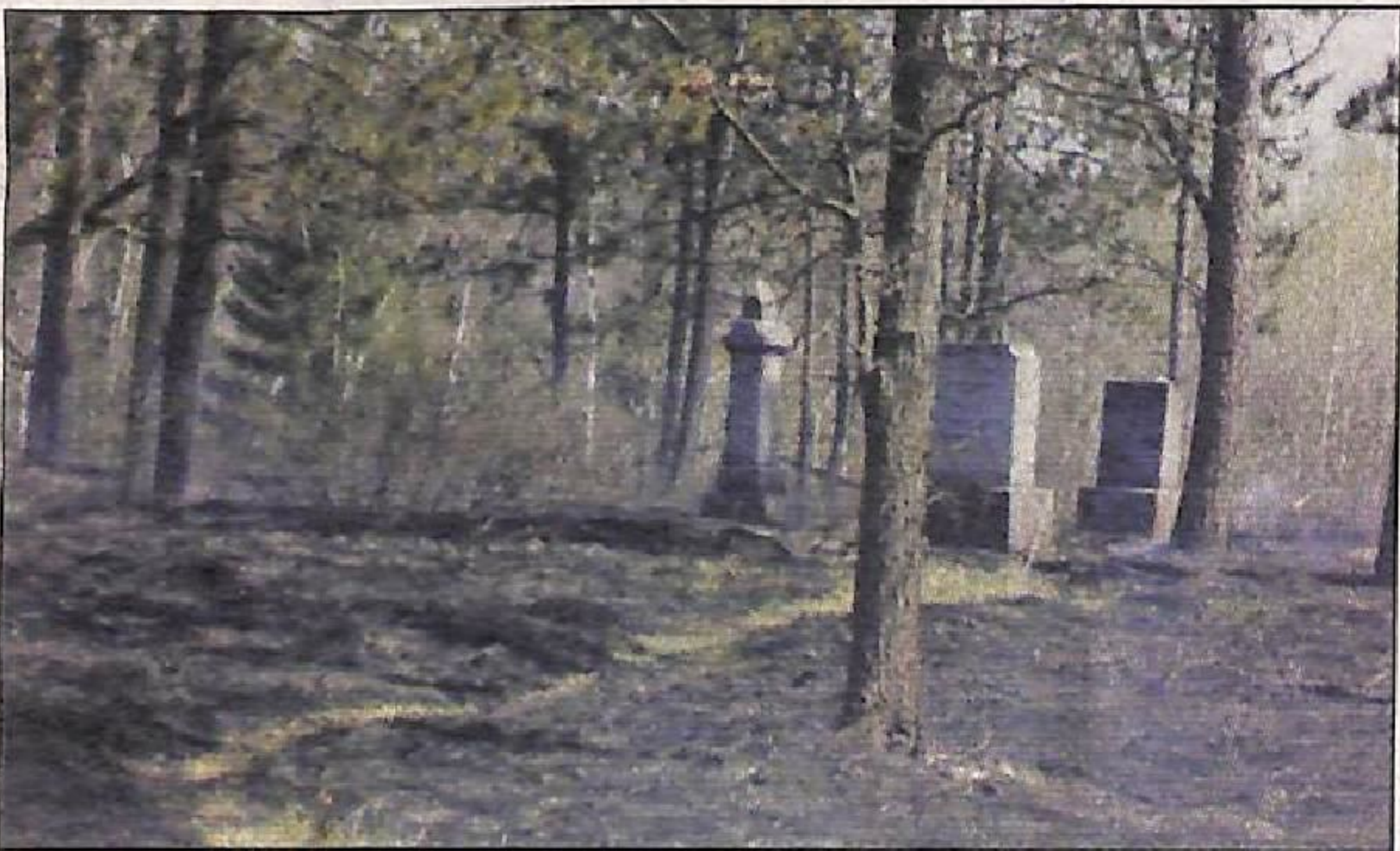


localnews

DESTROYING TO RESTORE



Submitted photo

This scene of devastation at the Red Cloud Cemetery is actually a good thing: following a controlled burn, the tallgrass prairie will grow back even stronger.



Submitted photo

The recent controlled burn at the Red Cloud Cemetery was done to further the tallgrass prairie restoration program.

Earth Day at Red Cloud Cemetery was spectacular

CECILIA NASMITH
Northumberland Today

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — Earth Day at the Red Cloud Cemetery tallgrass prairie restoration program was unusually spectacular this year, when a group supporting the project participated in a controlled burn.

"It's the most complete burn we have ever had. Conditions were ideal," project manager Ed Heuvel declared.

Located on Red Cloud School Road in the northwestern part of the township, this site is significant in that it's the only tallgrass prairie habitat cemetery in Ontario.

When the area was settled, Heuvel said, pioneers naturally gravitated to a place that was fairly clear and easy to plow. Then they set aside this two acres as their little community's cemetery.

Because it wasn't agriculturalized, he said, it preserved the tallgrass prairie.

The site is owned by the Township of Cramahe, who were represented at the

burn by members of the fire department.

"Whenever we do a burn, there's a responsibility for public safety. It's a shared responsibility, but I'm the one lighting the match. I'd rather have the fire department there anyway," Heuvel said.

Also present were cemetery-board representatives Cecilia and Bridget Heuvel, historical society representatives Elaine Rostetter-Saunders and Judith Goulin, and interested volunteers Bill Newell and Barry King.

A burn is required every three to four years, Ed Heuvel said.

"Tallgrass prairies need to be burned periodically to remove growth from past years," he said. "There's quite a lot of old grass that gets built up, tree branches that fall down, young trees growing up. It's a grassland, so trees only have a small component. A burn kills them without our having to go through and weed them out."

As the plant material burns to ash, the nitrogens and phosphates in the ash will go back into the soil with the rain to spread the nutrients from the top.

"Because it turns the area black, it

warms the soil quicker in the springtime," Heuvel added.

"A lot of those grasses are warm-season grasses, where the grass grows through the summer time and stays green. Common grasses like lawns grow in the spring and, under stress, will brown out in the summer time — a cold-season grass. Warm-season plants grow better in hot conditions," he said.

"A burn is timed so cold-season grasses are up a little bit, and the burn knocks them back and gives a little better competitive advantage to the native tallgrasses that are a strong component of the tall grass prairie."

That was the timing of the burn, Heuvel said, but the fact that it was Earth Day was an appropriate coincidence — "an interesting activity on a rare habitat, on a local pioneer cemetery done by local groups."

The cemetery board thanks these local groups and the fire department for their assistance, he said.

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OLIVER, Clifford B. - (W.W.II Veteran RCAF; Retired Assistant Post Master - King City; Past member of Robertson Lodge #292 & Jerusalem Lodge AF & AM # 31) - Passed away peacefully at the Golden Plough Lodge, Cobourg on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at the age of 88 years. Clifford, beloved husband of Barbara (nee: Hempstead). Loving father of Gail Meyer (Yvon Kenny), John Oliver (Lorriann) and Richard Oliver (Jennifer). Loved Papa of Cory Meyer, Meagan Oliver, Venessa Oliver, and Jake Oliver and predeceased by his grandson Nicholas Meyer. Dear brother of Herbert Oliver (Gertrude), Stuart Oliver (Betty), predeceased by Stanley Oliver (Lorain), Dorothy Bray (Vernon), Douglas Oliver (Jean), Cecil Oliver (who is survived by his wife Shirley). Predeceased by his parents Howard and Jennie Oliver. A Memorial service will be held at the **MORRIS FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 4 Division Street, Bowmanville on Monday, April 30, 2012 at 11 a.m. with visitation from 10-11a.m. Interment of cremated remains will take place at Shiloh Cemetery on Monday, April 30, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. Many thanks for the kindness and support Cliff received from Dr. V. Ho; Community Care Durham/Clarington Adult Day Care Program; CCAC; ComCare PSW's and Blacklock Cottage. Donations to the Alzheimer Society or Community Care Durham/Clarington — Adult Day Care Program in Cliff's memory would be gratefully appreciated.

www.morrisfuneralchapel.ca

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NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY APR 27/12

Announcements NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY Deaths MAY 1/12

HANNIGAN, Patrick Nicholas - Peacefully at his home with his family by his side on Friday April 27th, 2012 in his 64th year. Beloved husband of Doreen Hannigan (nee Burley). Loving father of Pat Hannigan (Jennifer); Sean Hannigan (Charity) and Tim Hannigan (Tricia). Lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Rachel, Mary, Patrick, Danica, Adara, Kieran and Brendan. Dear brother of Noel, Tommy, Catherine, Mary, Blaise, Frankie, Breda and the late Angela, Richie and Vincent. Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Friends are invited to call at the **MACCOUBREY FUNERAL HOME** 11 King St., W., Colborne on Thursday from 7-9 pm. Funeral prayers will be held in the funeral home on Friday May 4th, 2012 at 2 pm. Cremation with interment in St. Mary's Cemetery, Grafton. If desired, donations may be made to the Northumberland Hills Hospital Palliative Care Unit. Condolences received at www.MacCoubrey.com

Birth



Big brothers Aiden & Liam and Big sister Kayley are proud to announce the arrival of their new sister Lily Isla Grace Stanley. Born on April 04, 2012, weighing in at 9 lbs. 4 oz.

Proud parents are Adam & Kristina Stanley of Hanover, ON.

Delighted Grand Parents are Kathy & Gord Blahut of Hanover and Theresa & Terry Stanley of Castleton.

Great Grand Parents Edward Stanley of Bridgewater, NS, Patricia & Ted White of Toronto and lots of Aunts & Uncles and cousins.

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