

# Grafton church destroyed in blaze in 1908

**Anglican Church built in 1844**

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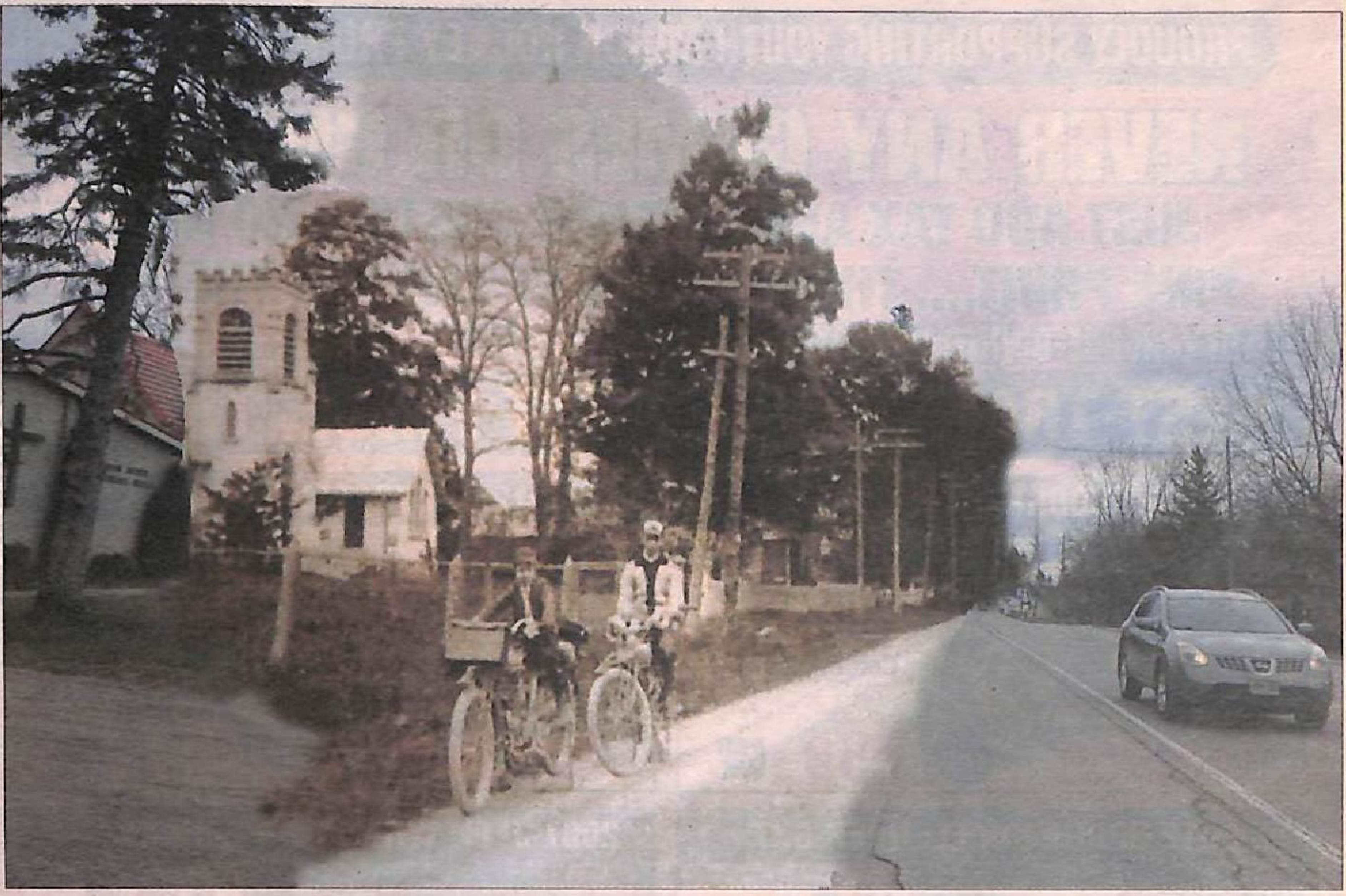
*Throwback Thursdays is a photo feature focusing on Northumberland's past. Every other Thursday the Northumberland News will bring together two photos -- a historical picture combined with a snapshot from current times.*

**GRAFTON** -- Destroyed by fire in April of 1908, St. George's Anglican Church was rebuilt and remains a prominent part of the Grafton community.

The church was originally built in 1844 and dedicated by Reverend A.N. Bethune, an ancestor of Dr. Norman Bethune, who was known for his battlefield operations in China in the late 1930s, and bringing modern medicine to that country. The church was rebuilt in 10 months with the help of other local churches, according to the Heritage Alnwick/Halifax.

The style of the church is English ecclesiastic with a tower battlement and Gothic buttresses and windows.

Grafton business owner Patricia Poisson provided the historic photo. If you have a historic photo you would like to share, contact Karen Longwell at 905-373-7355 ext. 232.



**GRAFTON** -- St. George's Anglican Church is seen today and in a historic photo. The original church was built in 1844 but was destroyed by fire in 1908.  
Karen Longwell / Northumberland News photo illustration

## Puppy donated to teen whose dog was shot

**Baltimore resident donates golden retriever puppy to Lydia Tomasi**

*NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS MAY 11/14*  
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**NORTHUMBERLAND** -- Cradled in the arms of Lydia Tomasi is a new best friend to sleep at the end of her bed.

The 16-year-old Centreton girl was all smiles at Equine Angels horse farm in Baltimore on April 28, where she picked up five-month-old Charlie -- a golden retriever puppy donated by farm owner Tia Von Schroeder.

Just a few weeks ago Lydia's dog Duke, a six-year-old golden retriever, was shot after he wandered onto a neighbour's property. Since then, Lydia said she and her family have received "an outpouring" of support.

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**NORTHUMBERLAND** -- Lydia Tomasi holds Charlie, a five-month-old Golden Retriever, that was donated to her by Baltimore resident Tia Von Schroeder. Ms. Von Schroeder donated the puppy to Lydia after reading in Northumberland News that Lydia's dog Duke, also a Golden Retriever, was shot and killed after wandering on to a neighbour's property.

Paul J. Rellinger / Northumberland News

## Centreton teen gets warming gift in wake of tragedy

*NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS MAY 11/14*

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"Everyone has been so nice. It's been so amazing," Lydia said, while Charlie -- short for Charlotte -- licked her face. "I wasn't expecting so much feedback so quickly. It's been quite overwhelming."

When Ms. Von Schroeder read in the Northumberland News about Duke being killed, she said her "heart felt for that little girl whose best friend is gone."

In an earlier interview, neighbour Chris Calnan said the shooting of the dog, hit by a ricocheting bullet, was accidental, as he only meant to scare it off his property.

Charlie comes from a litter of 10 pups born on Thanksgiving weekend.

"There was no hesitation in picking up the phone and trying to get a hold of this little girl so I could see if she'd want the puppy," Ms. Von Schroeder said. "I've had so many people over the last couple of years be good to me, that I want to pay that forward."

With tears in her eyes, Ms. Von Schroeder said the smile on Lydia's face is all the payment she needs.

"How can you resist that smiling face?" she asked. "I am just happy to help and help put a smile back on her face."

Lydia said she has also been contacted by someone who made a donation to the Pet Trust Fund at the Veterinary College in Guelph in Duke's name after hearing what happened.

Lydia admitted she was apprehensive about getting a new puppy so soon after Duke died.

"I remember how heartbroken I was after Duke died and whether or not I wanted to get close to another dog again, because natural cause or not, the dog will die one day. Was I prepared for that?" she said.

All the dogs the Tomasi family has owned have been rescued from area shelters.

"I have a problem saying no to dogs, but after talking it over with my family, I was excited to come get Charlie," she said. "I thought it was so nice of Tia to donate one of her puppies. I can't thank her enough."

Lydia added she didn't want the story of Duke's death to "cause such an uproar.

"We just wanted people to know Duke was not vicious," she said.

