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# The greatest mystery of all

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## The miracles we take for granted

Why was I the one who was born?  
Isn't it incredible that I am here at all, quite apart from enjoying so many worthwhile experiences and rubbing shoulders with so many wonderful fellow pilgrims on this journey called life?  
Yet somehow a negative event can get stuck more indelibly in one's brain. I have these proverbial memories from going to our one-room Plainville school where the chip truck now is, of being the last chosen for baseball teams. Or at least, I have this imagination that says it might have happened; it possibly did and I can't imagine ever being

first chosen, but last wasn't likely as often as one is prone to remember.  
I don't look back a lot on my working life, but the affirmations have tended to fade, while even if perspective of time has removed the hurts, those kinds of events can come as quickly to mind. In spite of all that, the positive side of the emotional ledger still seems more prominent.

Indeed it is humbling to think that my existence is a miracle even if an exceedingly disquieting one. For I exist perhaps only by fluke -- because one of my great-great-grandfathers out of lots of possibilities even then, took a fancy to one of my great-great-grandmothers, and out of all the thousands of possibilities of sperm-egg connections, I was the one that accidentally took. Which means that because I was born, I was born instead of any one of a few thousand of possible siblings who didn't make the cut to live their dreams.

And had my mother not had a miscarriage a few months before I made my presence known, I would not have been born, had that sibling lived. So whether it's survival of the fittest in the womb or destiny or fluke, the jury's still out.

It's still a miracle from my point of view, though clearly not my womb mates, that I actually came to walk this awesome earth. So if you ever think you'd like to win the lottery over others, you might as well know you already have, and big time.

Who survives a serious car accident without appreciating the fluke that you lived, while so many others die in what may appear less serious accidents?

There's a parallel vein, in the party line of all those little

boy babies dying at the time of Moses and then of Jesus in basically a rerun of the same story. The making of a leader has seemed to justify for many, the deaths of all those little boys with their lives still ahead of them.

It's wonderful we can take for granted the multitudinous miracles even within our bodies.

I read recently that when middle C is struck on the piano, the piston of bones in your inner ear vibrates exactly 256 times

a second. And it's said you daily think about 50,000 different thoughts. When you flex your hand you use 70 different muscles. And there are as many bacteria on the surface of your body as there are people on the surface of the earth; you did want to know that, didn't you?

The mystery of your birth, the mystery of the love you feel, the mystery of the deepest part of you are all most improbable. What a miraculous incredible contingency you and I are.

■ UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS: Film will be centrepiece of event

# Church event looks at the chemicals around us

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CECILIA NASMITH  
Northumberland Today

GRAFTON — The chemicals in our bodies, how they got there and what can be done about it is the subject of a May 10 event hosted by the St. Andrew's United Church United Church Women.

Unacceptable Levels is a film by Ed Brown, which will be the centrepiece of the 1:30 p.m. event

at St. Andrew's (located at 137 Old Danforth Rd. in Grafton). Refreshments and discussion will follow.

Also on hand will be a number of vendors offering alternative products, including Northumberland Soapworks (natural soaps), Pure Joy Herbal Creations (creams, salves, lip balm) and What's In Store (a local company that deals in health alternatives for personal care and household cleaning).

It's a special event of interest to anyone concerned about the chemicals around us, and everyone is welcome.

Admission is a donation for the Fare Share food banks.

For more information, call 905-349-3766.

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## ■ CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP

# Consultant looks at sewer needs

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BOB OWEN  
For Northumberland Today

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP - If Cramahe is to develop its industrial park, infrastructure costs will be hefty.

That appeared to be one of the messages given to Cramahe Township Council by D. M. Wills president Bruce Bonner at its May 6 meeting. D. M. Wills was asked by council to evaluate the options for providing standard sewers to businesses in the industrial park which lies adjacent to Highway 401.

Currently they are serviced by three-inch small bore sewers which are proving to be inadequate for current and future needs as they restrict sewage flow. Standard sewers are a minimum of eight inches in diameter.

Bonner says that the small bore is not good for industry; it restricts flow. It is the weakest link in the system now that the township has an expanded treatment plant.



Marc Coombs

Bonner gave the Township four options and some of the consequences.

The first was to do nothing. That will leave the Township with high maintenance costs for the small bore sewers. There will be no construction costs if nothing is done, and no related inconvenience, but it will result in limited growth potential.

The second choice was to follow the same path as the small bore sewers under Percy Street and into the industrial park. That will cost an estimated \$2.5 million. This route will not enhance growth potential significantly and might face approval problems as it would require tearing up the new road which is less than two years old.

The line in Option 3 would be buried east of Sunnyside Markets and run between it and Hoselton

Studios at a cost of \$2.3 million. But Bonner cited environmental concerns, and the approval process would be complex. It, too, would provide some growth potential but not a lot. Land would have to be acquired and construction would be difficult.

The approach preferred by Wills would use Elgin Street as the connection link to the existing sewage system. All of the industrial park would be serviced by the line, but the small bore sewers would still service a few properties on Percy Street. It would require a pumping station and a force main, and would cost about \$2.4 million. The environmental impact would be limited, there would be optimum growth and minimum effect on traffic as Elgin St. is not well travelled. On the down side, it might delay planned upgrades of the road surface on Park Street.

To help council with its comparisons, Bonner matched the costs with the potential increase in serviced land. The increase of 112 acres in Option 2 would cost \$22,000 per acre. In Option 3 the cost for the increase of 57 acres would be \$40,000 per acre. Option 4 would open up 200 acres with a cost of \$12,000 per acre.

The next step, if council decides to move the concept closer to reality, is to initiate a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. After that, a design would be created at a cost of \$50,000 to \$100,000. Mayor Marc Coombs cautioned that the sewers will not be built without provincial and federal money.

## ■ CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP

# Community garden proposed

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BOB OWEN  
For Northumberland Today

appeared to get it.  
Cramahe Horticulture Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2016 and is looking for ways to commemorate it. The club had already approached Cramahe Parks and Recreation manager Keeley Biron. It was his suggestion that the land formerly used as a playground, might be suitable.

If the project comes to fruition, there will be space in the garden for people to have their own plots.  
MacDonald realizes that there is plenty of work needed to make it happen. The land is hilly and might have to be terraced. It hasn't been tilled in a long time. With council support in hand the society can delve further into the possibilities. Society members have already suggested that food grown in the plot could be given to the local food bank.

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP - Cramahe Horticulture Society president Sharron MacDonald would like to see a community garden located adjacent to the Twin Diamonds in Colborne.

MacDonald was at Cramahe Township Council's May 6 meeting asking for support to create a community-use garden, and

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