

Local Government

Hillier Township Reeve Coghlan wants water for Consecon

Hillier Township Reeve Vic Coghlan is a busy man these days.

"Hillier has received a lot of good news this last year", he says. "We've got White Rose moving their nursery operation to the Huyck's Point Road, and the water project in Consecon well underway."

White Rose Crafts and Nursery Sales will employ about 50 people seasonally and is expected to be operational in time for the 1995 growing season.

"It's a real shot in the arm for us", says Mr. Coghlan, "and the White Rose people have been just great to deal with. It's something that's going to benefit the whole County."

Consecon has received \$6.5 million dollars from the provincial government for their water project.

"The situation in Consecon was just terrible", Mr. Coghlan says. "An environmental study was completed in 1989. Ninety-seven wells were tested and of those, 81% were contaminated. Eight percent of them were completely unfit for human use."

The village has reached an arrangement with the City of Trenton to pipe water from their facility. The project has been delayed because of negotiations with Murray Township.

"I'm getting very concerned about the delay in implementing this project", Mr. Coghlan says. "We've got the money, and Consecon has to have good water soon. The water they're using right now is causing health problems."

If there is any further delay in the project, Mr. Coghlan would

like to see potable water brought in for the residents of Consecon.

"People are getting rashes and diarrhea from using the water", he says. "If this situation existed because of industrial contamination, the water trucks would have been pulling up by now."

Mr. Coghlan has been working on water for Consecon for a number of years. He has spent nine years in municipal government

and served on boards like the Water Commission, the Arena Board and the Recreation Committee in Wellington, and was on the first Fair Board.

He first ran for council when people started approaching him and suggesting that he get involved.

He is well-qualified to represent Hillier. Although he was born in Maynooth, and worked for many years in Trenton as a tool and die maker, he has lived in the Township for 50 years. He and his wife, Violet, live on Highway #33 at Cold Creek Road.

He has served one term on Council, two terms as Deputy-Reeve, and became Reeve last fall.

He would like to see the Township attract even more businesses, and feels that Consecon, in particular, will expand rapidly once the water problem is taken care of.

"We have to plan ahead and be ready for changes when they come", he says. "I expect we'll see the official County plan back on the boards before too long."

Mr. Coghlan feels that the cost of education poses a real problem for the smaller Townships like Hillier.

"Sixty-six percent of our taxes go to education", he says, "and a further 15% go to the County. That doesn't leave the Township with much left over."

Although this is a continuing problem, Hillier has had a balanced budget for the last two years, "and we've done a pretty good job of holding taxes down", Mr. Coghlan says.



Hillier Reeve Vic Coghlan

He feels that further costs could be saved by the sharing of services between municipalities in the County.

Last fall's elections resulted in a new council for Hillier, and according to Mr. Coghlan, "everything is going great. I'm real happy with the people we've got working for the Township".

Although he has served in many different capacities in local government, there is one thing left he would like to do.

"Someday", he says, "I'd like to be Warden of Prince Edward County."