

Congratulations On Your Retirement!

By Mike Dill
Wastewater Trainer

Upon graduation from high school in 1971, Rick Scaptura started with the Village of Watkins Glen as an assistant at the wastewater treatment plant. Originally the plant consisted of primary settling tanks and gas chlorination prior



to discharge and anaerobic digesters with greenhouse sludge drying beds. Life was good. 1978 saw the first upgrade to activated sludge and a thickener prior to a coil filter. No more raking the drying beds. In 1980, Rick became chief operator of the facility, and in 1985, the plant crew took on the responsibility for 5 pump stations and the collection systems and also added a third employee to the staff.

Through the years, changes have occurred and new equipment has been added. Several years ago when the belt press was added, Rick and his staff were heavily involved in design and installation. A sewer-flushing machine and a camera truck, designed and assembled by the staff, have made the village less reliant on outside contractors.

When Rick completes his time in February 2007, 36 years have come and gone.

30 years ago Rick married Laurie, and they have twin sons. The boys gave Laurie and Rick a granddaughter and grandson. Being a native of the Glen means being an avid race fan.

A long time supporter of Mark Martin and Ford, Rick had to have the second generation Mustang. The picture shows Rick with his baby. Like an expectant parent he had to wait six months for delivery.

For many years, Rick has been involved in civic and charitable organizations. One that he is very proud of is the annual Italian / American Festival each September. He served as chairman for five years and now attendance is close to

50,000 for the three-day event. Each year he still tends to the Seneca Santa. A group that makes sure less fortunate kids have a Christmas gift.

The newest passion is golf. Several years ago, Rick passed up his time at the NYRWA conference because it conflicted with a golf outing weekend in Virginia. He knows how to prioritize. Now he is involved with different charitable groups organizing golf outings as fundraisers. The decision to retire came when Rick figured out work was getting in the way of time on the course.

Rick is one of the unsung hero's that make plant operations happen.

24 / 7 = 365, "Get 'er dun". Rick be proud of your career and accomplishments and from the rural water community, THANK YOU!!! Enjoy your retirement. ♠