

To: Mayor and Council

From: Michael M'Gonigle, Chair, Water Advisory Task Force

Date: July 10, 2000

Re: Senanus water issue

In light of the correspondence received today by the Council on this issue, I would like to draw the Council's attention to the primary recommendation of the majority report of the Task Force on the Senanus issue, and suggest some desirable action.

In our report (June 14, 1999), we suggested that the Council contact the residents of Senanus individually to facilitate a resolution of their reported problems. This recommendation followed from the investigation undertaken by a joint committee, including the representative of the Capital Health Region, Dr. Bradbury. This committee's report (the Loewen report) corrected the CHR's incorrect assumption as to the state of the aquifer, and clearly demonstrated that the aquifer in the area was healthy. Instead, the report suggested that many of the quality problems in the area were related to the inadequate maintenance of individual systems.

The WATF would again suggest that Council respond to this conclusion in a supportive way that is consistent with municipal procedures. This was the intent of the WATF's primary recommendation last year. That is, while the Council should not spend monies on individual households, it should facilitate individual householders to solve their own problems. This should be done by writing to each individual householder with three questions:

- 1) What is/has been the nature of any problem that you have with your water, either quality or quantity?
- 2) Could you furnish to the Council (or Water Advisory Task Force, if desired) any studies done on your water to demonstrate in specific form this problem or problems?
- 3) Could you furnish to the Council (or WATF) any studies done on how to solve your problem(s)?

When this information is gathered and analyzed, experts could be identified to whom residents could be referred for further action. Such information could even be gathered from all the people on the petition, or even all those along Mt. Newton Crossroad.

With this information, Council can help address the issues where they undoubtedly now need to be--on a case-by-case basis. This route will allow for simple and constructive action. This route should be supported by anyone seriously interested in resolving this issue. It should also be undertaken by Council in order to resolve the issue once and for all.