

**CENTRAL SAANICH WEST
VOTERS ASSOCIATION**

c/o 629 Senanus Drive
Saanichton, BC
V8M 1S6

Chairman, Chris Causton and Members of the Board
Capital Regional District
524 Yates Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 1K8

CRD ADMINISTRATIO

MAY 7 2001

May 3rd 2001

RECEIVED

Dear Sir:

RE: Senanus Drive/Mt. Newton X Road Health and Water Issue

As you are aware, a number of consultants, including the CHR, have reported on the problems with the well water in our area of Central Saanich. These problems include, high mineralization, which is both difficult to treat, and prone to rapid bacteria growth. Our water is thus, unfit to drink, unpalatable, and is not useable for normal household purposes. Additionally, the water quality and quantity fluctuates with the seasons and is further impacted by usage from upstream users.

Our primary concern is health. We know that there are long term dangers associated with extreme mineral levels, some of which can be avoided by drinking and cooking with bottled water. However, we have concerns about the impact of continuously using our well water for bathing and other normal household purposes. The paramount concern is the risk associated with the capability of our water to support the rapid growth of bacteria and the difficulties associated with treatment, and the risks associated with poor personal hygiene resulting from the lack of water in many homes in the summer and the fall.

We are especially concerned for the many young and elderly residents, who are highly susceptible to water-induced health risks, which could easily result from any reduction in vigilance, including any visitors who may inadvertently drink water from our taps. In the past ten months on Senanus Drive (which has 21 homes) we have had two serious cases of sickness, both requiring medical attention, both caused by water bacteria problems, in spite of the fact that the CHR has been performing monthly monitoring of six homes on Senanus Drive. In the first five months of testing, at least one of the homes failed each month, with CHR reporting:

"BACTERIOLOGICALLY UNSATISFACTORY WATER INDICATED".

These results repeatedly created dismay and shock for the homeowners.

The solution is simple, straightforward, not revolutionary, and would deliver safe quantities of water to the area in the same manner that 99% of Greater Victoria residents enjoy today. The solution is that recommended by the CHR, the municipal engineer,

Giles Environmental Engineering, the impacted residents, and a part of the municipal Water Task Force.

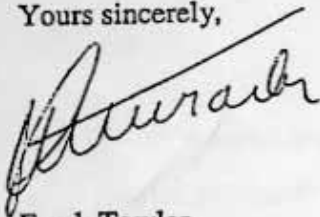
A majority of Central Saanich Council has repeatedly refused to acknowledge that a problem exists or that it constitutes a very real health hazard. On April 9, Council defeated a motion (3-3) to forward all studies, data and reports to Drs. Richard Stanwick and Saun Peck, Regional and Provincial Medical Health officers in order that they may render an opinion on whether the health of the impacted residents and their families is at risk or not.

The existing municipal water system has the capacity to support our neighbourhood; our problems can be solved by a water main extension. We request that the CRD, under the powers that it has been granted, form a Local Service Area for the purpose of delivering safe water to the residents.

In view of the potential liability to which all levels of government are exposed including the CRD as managers of the region's water supply, we ask that you instruct staff to obtain all the relevant information and forward it to Drs. Stanwick and Peck.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to receiving your early response.

Yours sincerely,



Frank Towler

President
Central Saanich West Voters Association

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