

June 19, 2008

To: Mayor Marr and Council of the District of Central Saanich

Subject: Senanus Petition and Official Community Plan (OCP) Amendment

I attended the Mt. Newton/Senanus Neighbourhood Meeting on June 18 and learned two significant pieces of information.

1. This Petition for water is being driven by a small group of property owners, not council and
2. This proposed local water service will now need an OCP Amendment in order to possibly proceed.

Both of these points are troublesome.

1. I believe that, if this had been a council driven initiative, council would have demanded a serious investigation into the alleged water problems, considered possible solutions and have concrete facts at hand to justify this current \$1.7M proposal. However, as a neighbourhood initiative, we are faced with conflicting reports and continuing anecdotal evidence. In fact, a recent real-estate sales ad for a property on Senanus (see attached) leads me to question whether or not some of the water problems on Senanus are directly related to zoning bylaw infractions. If this is the case, these residents will be rewarded, rather than held accountable, for their disregard of community bylaws .

2. Although this project is labelled a Local Area Service, the fact that it now requires an OCP Amendment to proceed indicates that it has significant influence over our community values, goals and direction. Urban containment, in our otherwise rural community, is a cornerstone of our OCP vision, and it is urban containment that is under attack here.

I ask council to stop this neighbourhood initiative now, take charge, and work with these property owners to find and implement successful local water solutions that do not jeopardize our urban containment community goals and that may allow more appropriate use of our infrastructure grant dollars.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Chambers

Elizabeth Chambers, Member of Central Saanich RatePayers Association
901 Verdier Avenue, Brentwood Bay (attachment follows)

From:

Peter Nash, successfully selling waterfront and luxury real estate on Vancouver Island, Victoria, and the Gulf Islands since 1972.

An Oceanfront Estate - A Kingdom By The Sea

This incredible gated estate of 5.95 secluded and picturesque acres (2.41 hectares) is situated on Thomson Cove being one of Saanich Peninsula's most desirable locations. The custom designed Main Residence of three and a half (1) stories is approximately 11,000 square feet (1022 square metres) with spacious entrance and entertainment areas, four bedrooms and two self- (2) (3) contained suites and a total of seven bathrooms. Many of the rooms open onto the numerous patios and decks all having beautiful outlooks. There is also a separate caretakers or guest house of 1500 square feet (139 square (4) metres), office building with garage facilities being 1400 square feet (130 square metres), board room/entertainment building of 2150 square feet (200 square metres) including a one bedroom apartment and garage, recreation/spa (5) building of 4600 square feet (427 square metres) with two racket courts and a rooftop tennis court, several ancillary buildings (work/machine shop/ backup power generator / storage / garages), three swimming pools (one !!! indoor / two outdoor one of which is tidal), two boathouses (one with marine railway for a boat of approximately 53 feet (16 metres), two substantial all tide and weather docks (50 x 10 feet / 15 x 3 metres and 111 x 9 feet / 34 x 3 metres with Aquatic Lands Licence, boat/airplane ramp, stables (six stalls) 1080 square feet (100.3 square metres) and riding ring.

The property, which is very private, is developed in gardens and lawns about the residence with a background of mature native trees. The east side is undeveloped field area and the west side has a riding ring. The westerly outlook over Saanich Inlet (48 40'N., 123 30'W) takes advantage of beautiful marine views and sunsets. The low bank oceanfront of 850 feet (259 metres) +/- on Thomson Cove offers excellent moorage for boats and seaplanes. The residential zoning makes this recreational retreat suitable for a single family, a large family or corporate group or possibly a shared ownership of several families.

water requirements for:
5 residences
3 swimming pools