

Mayor and Council
District of Central Saanich
1903 Mt. Newton Crossroad
Saanichton
V8M-2A9

July 4, 2008

Water For Mt. Newton and Senanus

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council

I would sum up my feelings with regard to support or not support the extension of the water as both confused, and incomplete.

I have previously signed a document which I believe was the petition. It provided space for signatures, but as I can recall, little if any information.

I do recall that a significant part of my reasoning for supporting the petition was that I was led to believe that a portion of the cost of the extension would be offset by reduced insurance premiums as a result of the fire protection that would result from the hydrants, etc.

I later became aware (I believe as a result of a 'green fact sheet' provided by the District) that the existing plan did in fact not include such fire protection, although it was possible that such protection might be included, albeit at increased cost.

I therefore conclude that deliberately or innocently I was misled in Mr. Towler's enthusiasm to obtain my signature in support of the project.

I believe that when purchasing property in a rural area, it is the purchaser's responsibility to be aware of the OCP or other plans for that area. In selecting a rural such as Central Saanich, it would be assumed that 'town water' and sewers would not be expected.

While appreciating the difficulties of water supply for the proponents of the plan, I believe that maintaining the rural nature of our valley trumps the homeowners' expectations of 'town water'.

The evidence is clear that a combination of town water and sewers is frequently followed by considerable development. As an example, the extremely poorly conceived development currently under way at West Saanich and Mills Road.

I would request that if possible, my name be removed from the petition or document that I had previously signed.

My recommendation would be that both the 'groups' in support of, and against, commit their arguments to writing. The arguments would be distributed to all affected properties.

Both groups would then be allowed one follow up written position dealing with their opponents' arguments.

Then, a vote in the form of written ballot of all those affected (I assume that would be the properties involved) would be taken....the decision, assuming the decision was supported by council, would be final.

I see no simpler, satisfactory solution.

Respectfully,

Harold & Garnet Irwin
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V8M-1S2