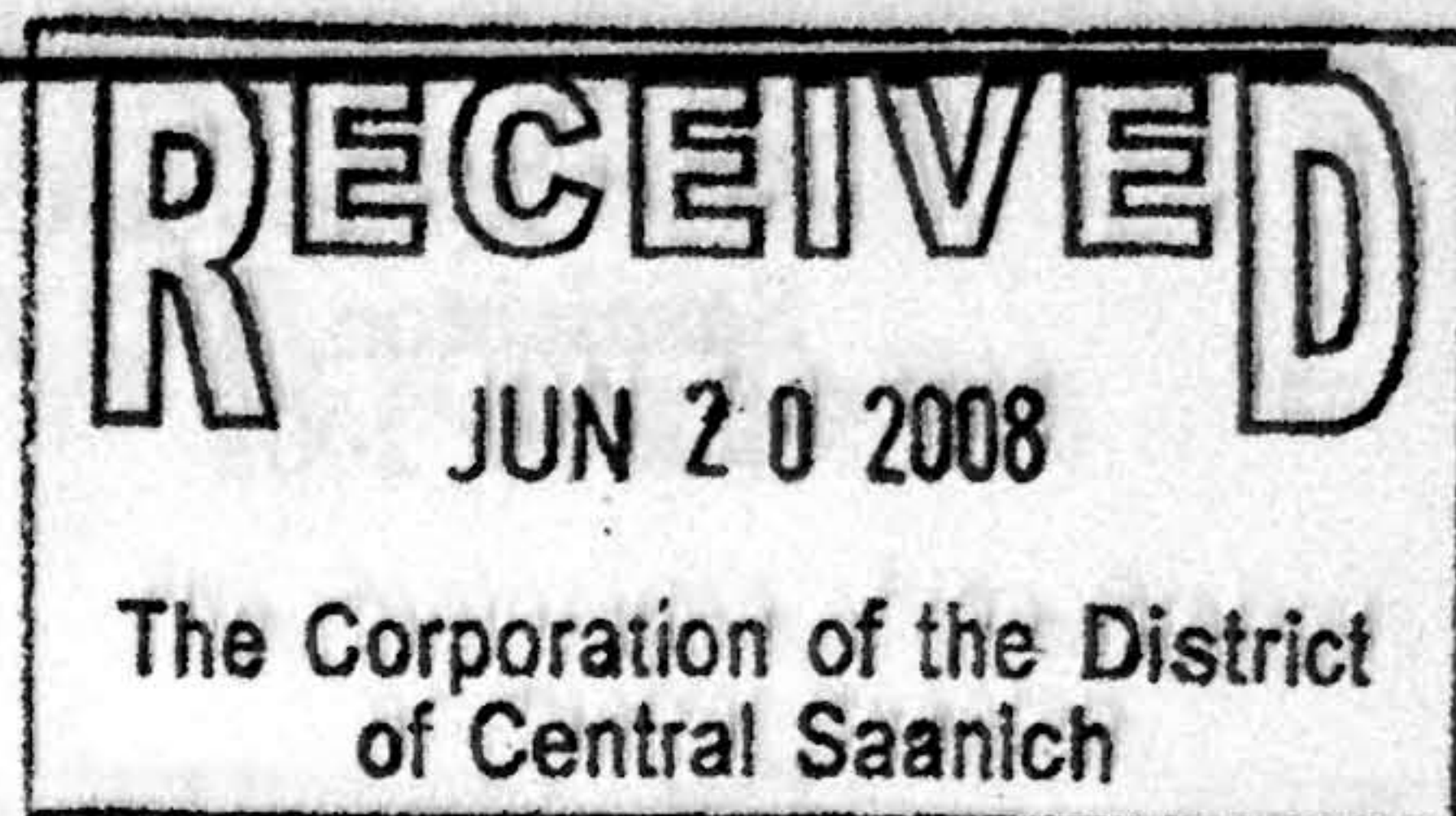


Ruby Shea

From: David & Karen Harris [davidandkarenharris@shaw.ca]
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2008 1:13 PM
To: Ruby Shea
Subject: Senanus Water Line



Mayor and Council
Municipality of Central Saanich

The Petition Process, a provincial legislation available to residents as a means of requesting a service the petitioners choose to pay for, appears to have a grey area between the submission of a petition signed by at least 50% of properties with at least 50% of assessed value and the time the balance of a neighbourhood is aware of this process by advertisement of a pending Bylaw to accomodate the request. Weeks, months in which the perpetrators have time to entrench their position without opposition. Since when does 50% of the wealth override 50% of the vote? It may not be pertinent in this issue, but it is not a facet of governance that I would expect in Canada and hope Central Saanich will find a way of limiting in future. This is a severely flawed process which commits, without their knowledge or consent, parcel holders in a catchment area to finance out of their pocket an initiative they would not support. Legal it may be, good government it is not.

Central Saanich acknowledged these flaws by holding a property owners' information meeting. This was greatly appreciated. It should have occurred prior to the petition circulation, not after. I understand that there is no legal requirement but I do believe that as elected representatives of all parcel holders you owe us the respect of keeping us informed at the outset of legalities that will affect us financially, especially when the projected bill per parcel owner is \$8,500.00 to \$9,000.00.

Now that the legality of a manipulated petition is verified it is your responsibility as Mayor and Councillors to weigh the benefits of placating a fifteen year nuisance with your mandate to honour the OCP. Tweaking the Regional Context Statement which currently would not support this project is not an honorable solution to this problem even if it does clear up other housekeeping issues.

Municipalities delight in acquiring public works that do not cost them anything. Don't succumb. This public work that is to the benefit of private interests should not be rubber stamped by Council. For at least fifteen years former councils have acted responsibly and refused to support previous petitions and submissions. What has changed? Only the better solutions now available.

During the last few months I was shocked out of my naivety to learn that a Process said to be Driven By Property Owners was in the works for the better part of a year quietly supported by Central Saanich. The rôle of the municipality in applying for the grant, in counselling the petitioners in the legality of their course of action, and in preparing the petition for them with additional backup services may be considered 'all in a day's work'

by staff is only broadly defined as resident driven. When Central Saanich is doing all the work except for the door to door circulation of the petition it certainly gives new meaning to resident driven.

The petition is only part of the process. Council has an opportunity to assess the necessity of this project. Assure yourselves that fifteen years of proported poisonous water has not ruined the health of any of those complaining for fifteen years. Surely by now they would have all died off if the water situation was as dreadful a menace as indicated. Just because the grant was approved you do not have to support this petition.

Money is finite. Put it back in the pot and let it help those who truly need to benefit from a grant. I understand Tsartlip Band have many polluted wells. Ask yourself what a just use of this money would be, then follow in the footsteps of former councils. Always keep the greater good at heart.

Thank you. Karen Harris 849 Mt. Newton Cross Rd., Saanichton, BC V8M1S2
652.9364

Council July 7/08