

August 5, 2008

Mayor and Council
District of Central Saanich
1903 Mt. Newton X Road
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A9

Dear Mayor Mar and Members of Council,

I am responding to the letter to Council from Sue Stroud submitted in late July 2008.

It would appear that the only one not facing environmental reality is Ms. Stroud.

We residents of Senanus Drive have been obliged to practice water conservation for many years even before our wells became contaminated with salt water intrusion and the aquifer became depleted. The depletion was the result of the sinking of 2 deep wells by the new owners of Woodwyn Farm about 15 years ago to provide 24 hour irrigation to their extensive fields in order to produce 3 hay crops per year.

Many of the homes on Senanus Drive are "modest", many have only 1 resident, others 2 and some are only occupied during the summer and believe it or not many have low flush toilets and showerheads.

What water we have, has to be trucked in from Sooke Lake by large diesel tanker trucks and stored in large tanks. This is neither healthy nor environmentally friendly.

There is and has been clear public evidence of reduced use and extensive remediation efforts which have been provided by experts over the years to the councils of the day who have chosen to ignore them. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on the replacement of corroded plumbing fixtures, pipes and water tanks. The Capital Region chief medical Officer declared the water unfit for human consumption and advised not to use it for bathing children. Reduced water use was a frequent occurrence as many wells ran dry during the summer.

Ms. Strouds reference to "expansion outside our urban containment boundaries" is misleading. Our community has existed since long before Central Saanich was created and the Municipality has had no difficulty collecting heavy taxes while denying us our basic right to clean potable water if not fire protection.

