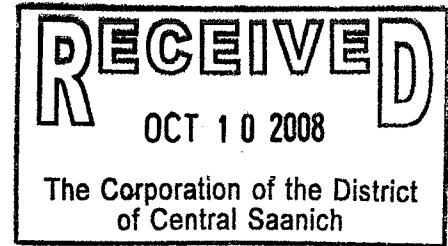


## Ruby Shea

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**From:** Elizabeth Chambers [elichamb@islandnet.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2008 10:50 AM  
**To:** Municipal Hall  
**Subject:** Letter to Mayor and Council



October 10, 2008

Dear Mayor and Council

Subject: Senanus Water

Below is my recent letter to the Peninsula Review in response to their Editorial on October 8. I am sure you wish to hear other voices regarding this community conflict.

Letter to the Peninsula Review

Senanus Rescue Plan

The Senanus Peninsula is a rural part of Central Saanich. Our Official Community Plan has never included this rural area in any development plans.

Rather, Central Saanich has designated three settlement area - Saanichton, Brentwood Bay and the Keating Industrial Park.

However, over the past 20 years, the Senanus residents have indeed developed, and continue to develop, their 20 estate properties anyway. If I am to believe real estate ads and magazine articles over the past year, many of these large waterfront residences feature numerous bathrooms, a number of secondary suites, entertainment buildings, pools and spas. All of this development requires excessive use of water.

Unfortunately, for many years, the Senanus residents have only focused on bringing urban infrastructure, i.e. piped water, to their rural environment to solved their water problems. A few years ago, the Council of the District of Central Saanich recommended a research grant to assess local solutions such as cisterns and rain water catchment to recharge the local aquifer but the residents' group refused to participate.

Recently, they have convinced the District to apply for a Green grant of Federal and Provincial Tax dollars to cover two thirds of the pipeline costs. They are currently trying to convince the owners of an additional 40 residences in the Mount Newton Valley, who are currently addressing their water needs locally, to join with them to access piped Sooke water. However, the Local Improvement Tax that will be levied on some of the Mount Newton residences may amount to an increase in taxes of up to 25 percent for the next 15 years to pay the remaining one-half million dollar cost of the pipe-line.

Another local newspaper, covering this story in the past couple of weeks, featured a picture of Senanus resident Gordon Denford surrounded by large water storage tanks that he is installing on his property. I commend him for this local initiative and hope that, as a District, we can support other Senanus residents to address their water needs locally. I believe this would be an appropriate use of Green Tax dollars, a reasonable rescue package and a clear message that development in Central Saanich must respect our Official Community Plan.

Elizabeth Chambers  
Brentwood Bay  
250 652-1744

Council Oct 2008