

COMMENT

Other solutions are available to Senanus residents

The majority of plentiful, clean drinking water at waterfront homes on Senanus Drive is held in swimming pools, hot tubs and toilet tanks in this "luxury neighborhood" in Central Saanich. Senanus mansions extract water from the aquifer at unsustainable rates. And, rather than returning purified water to the aquifer, send run-off into the sea.

One Senanus property listing shows five dwelling units (on a lot zoned for one), 15 bathrooms, three swimming

pools and half an acre of enclosed living space. Roof area at this property alone could generate almost one million litres of water yearly. While B.C.'s Living Water Smart guide supports rainwater collection initiatives, Senanus residents oppose it.

A district grant application in 2000 proposed many solutions for Senanus, including municipal spring capping and water conservation and re-use. However these plans were never implemented. Following opposition from

pipeline proponents, the district rescinded its grant application.

The district has exacerbated aquifer management by not following professional recommendations to rectify issues, but is not as inactive as Senanus residents claim.

In 2007, Central Saanich applied for an infrastructure grant for a pipeline. Incorrect, misleading information was used. On realizing the pipeline was contrary to district laws, the district refused to examine facts and moved to change

the laws, pandering to pipeline lobbyists. The grant means that, unless it is rescinded, federal and provincial taxpayers will pay for Central Saanich to appease its wealthiest tax base.

Health officer Dr. Richard Stanwick never stated that the water was unfit for consumption. His CRD and other reports confirming there is no health concern are available at www.senanus.net.

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