

COMMENT

Is there a plan for Senanus water?

In the article on the water issue on Senanus Drive (Sept. 17), Central Saanich Coun. Zeb King is quoted as saying, "I'm not opposed to them having water, I'm in favour of taking a different approach to the solution."

King suggested any extension of water services to Senanus Drive require a two-thirds vote of council; how is this showing his support to these residents having water? And if King is in favour of getting these residents water, but by use of a different approach, why has he not made his favoured approach public? I have attended a few Central Saanich council meetings over the past two months and he has done nothing but show strong opposition to this issue.

*Ron Heal
Brentwood Bay*

Other water measures tried

Thank you for your recent coverage of the long saga of Central Saanich residents as we seek to obtain safe and healthy drinking water for our homes in Senanus/Mount Newton neighbourhood. Councillor Zeb King is quoted as suggesting that the residents take a "different approach" rather than simply connecting ourselves to the region's water supply. We have drilled wells, collected rainwater and practise every water conservation approach that we can, but have reached the practical end of these alternatives

As a resident of the area, I want to emphasize that this issue has nothing to do with land development, but rather is about clean potable water. Canada is not a Third World country and every resident should have the basic right to safe water.

*Christine Neal
Saanichton*

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.

*Lori Waters
Central Saanich*
