

FANNY BAY GROUNDWATER COLLECTIVE
Submission to July 2026 Edition of Fanny Bay Flyer

The Funding Match

As we told you last month, West Coast Environmental Law's *Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund* provided us with a grant to fund roughly 60% of the cost of 25 hours of initial legal support; the Collective was responsible for raising the balance. Good news! Thanks to many friends and neighbours, we have met that goal! Our fundraising continues, however... If all goes well in this initial phase, we will be applying to WCEL for additional funding to continue to: a) call for local public hearings in government's license application review of Natural Glacial Waters and Cermaq and b) support our development of a Water Sustainability Plan to protect our fragile water resources into the future. See our new Donor page at saveourgroundwater.ca ❤️

The Applications

At the end of May, we wrote to the BC Water Management Branch asking for copies of the Existing Use Groundwater License applications of Natural Glacial Waters on Berray Road and Mitsubishi-owned Cermaq on Stelling Road. Concerned that we had not received a reply, we reached out to FrontCounter BC on June 8th and were told both licenses have been "assigned" to a Water Management Officer. As both were "unassigned" (still in the queue) in February, this suggests the review process has or is about to commence for these two applications.

In response, we sent a letter June 10th to the Honourable Randene Neill, B.C. Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, expressing our alarm and requesting her urgent attention. The letter was copied to Chief Nicole Rempel, K'ómox First Nation, Chief Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation, and Comox Valley federal, provincial and regional government representatives Gord Johns, Josie Osborne, and Daniel Arbour, respectively. Both letters are posted on our website saveourgroundwater.ca

Under the Water Sustainability Act we have the right, as a community, to work towards the development of a Water Sustainability Plan - a legal tool giving communities the authority to resolve watershed conflicts, restore degraded aquatic ecosystems, and protect the long-term sustainability of their surface water and groundwater resources. But if these two license applications are first approved, and water rights granted in perpetuity (permanent; tied to the land), our ability to protect our groundwater under a Water Sustainability Plan will be far more difficult.

On June 18th we submitted an FOIA (Freedom Of Information Act) request to the Province for copies of the NGW and Cermaq license applications and all related material.

Next Up

We look forward to seeing everyone at FBCA Summer Market August 8th and the Seniors' Garage Sale August 29th. Craig Rogers, chef and member of FBGC task force, is making his special, artisanal "cookies for community". Stop by our table to get up to date news on our efforts and enjoy one of the best cookies you've ever tasted!

October Surprise

HOLD THE DATE! In a wonderfully generous show of support and encouragement for our efforts, we are soooooo excited to share the news that the amazing Bob McDonald, beloved CBC science journalist, broadcaster, author and host of Quirks and Quarks, will come to Fanny Bay's Community Hall on Saturday morning, October 24th to speak to us about water: how unique our planet is to have it, and why it is so important to protect it. In addition, the event will sport our fabulous silent auction table and feature a special kid's program in the morning (what is groundwater? why is it important?) preceding Bob's talk that hopefully will include Mike Wei's marvelous groundwater model. The morning will close with a light lunch. Details to follow.