

ARE OUR AQUIFERS AT RISK?

Groundwater is stored underground in aquifers of sand, gravel, silt, or fractured rock. Our community is dependent on our fragile aquifers to provide water to our homes, farms, streams, wetlands, and ecosystems as well as to provide essential fire protection.

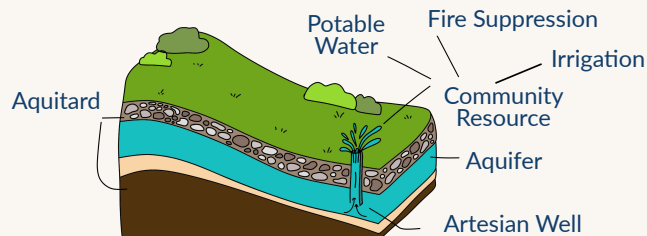
Last summer, for the fifth summer in a row, many residential wells ran dry. And this is happening earlier each year.

Meanwhile, Cermaq and Natural Glacial Waters have applied for licenses to continue to divert water from our community aquifers.

Cermag, owned by Mitsubishi, is using this water to raise smolts for its open net fish farms. Natural Glacial Waters is bottling it in 500 ml bottles for sale to domestic and offshore markets.

Because both were using groundwater before the 2016 Water Sustainability Act, they are considered "Existing Use Groundwater" users and are now in line for licenses which are being fast-tracked.

If approved, such licenses will confer water rights attached to the land in perpetuity (read FOREVER).



"Never doubt that local initiatives, born and bred in the community, are the most powerful pathway to change!"

We gratefully acknowledge that we are located on the unceded traditional territory of the Sahloot ('sath-loot), Sasitla (sa'seet-la), leeksun (eye-'ick-sun), Xa'xe ('ha'hey) and Pentlatch peoples, who together, make up the K'ómoks First Nation.

WHAT IS THE FANNY BAY GROUNDWATER COLLECTIVE?

We are a group of your neighbours who are working hard to protect the sustainability of our aquifers:

Jackie Ainsworth
Mandie Bumble
Wendy Holm

Shirl Leggett
Karen Ouellet
Craig Rogers

FANNY BAY
GROUNDWATER
COLLECTIVE

**SAVE OUR
GROUNDWATER**

saveourgroundwater.ca

WHAT IS FANNY BAY GROUNDWATER COLLECTIVE TRYING TO DO?

Our community relies on healthy aquifers to provide a sustainable supply of groundwater for our homes, our farmers and our fire protection.

We are calling for a PAUSE in the government's license approval process to allow us to have a say in this critical public policy decision.

Cermaq's and Natural Glacial Waters' pending commercial groundwater licenses, if granted, would confer water rights FOREVER, attached to the land in perpetuity. A pause to allow for community input would have minimal impact on the two license applicants as they continue to use groundwater. The only impact would be their inability to capitalize the value of the potential water licenses on their balance sheets.

Unfortunately on July 21st, 2026 the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship turned down our request.

Fortunately, thanks to West Coast Environmental Law's Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund and matching community funding we are saddle-ready to head out in pursuit of legal options.

Our longer-term goal is to support the development of a Water Sustainability Plan as permitted under the ACT to allow us to better manage our precious water resources into the future.

WHY A PAUSE IS CRITICAL.

We have everything at stake when it comes to our groundwater. We have important community resources to contribute. We want to be part of this important public policy decision.

Research by Beaufort Watershed Stewards in association with University of Victoria is well underway to understand better the capacity and sustainability of our aquifers, the impact of climate change and logging practices on recharge rates, and what the community needs to sustain itself into the future.

We are seeking a pause in the BC government's licensing approval process for Cermaq and Natural Glacial Waters to allow our community the time to complete this work and present the results in a public hearing process.

FALL FUNDRAISER!

Saturday, October 24 at Fanny Bay Hall
\$20 - \$50 suggested donation

TICKETS - saveourgroundwater.ca

CBC's BOB MCDONALD will talk about water and planets and how lucky Earth is to have it. MIKE WEI will demonstrate his amazing groundwater model.

SILENT AUCTION filled with artful goodies!
Light Lunch will be served after speakers.

SPECIAL SEPARATE MORNING SESSION
FOR KIDS w/ Mike Wei & Bob McDonald.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Three ways to Donate to our Legal Fund:

1. e-Transfer

donate@saveourgroundwater.ca
(please include in the message your email address so we can thank you!)

2. Zeffy Donation Form

(through our website, easy and secure)

3. Cheque

Email info@saveourgroundwater.ca and we will come pick up your cheque!

The first 25 people who donate \$200 or more will receive a beautiful, hand-crafted, limited edition, artisanal clay trivet lovingly created by Fanny Bay artist Maggie Card!

Contribute an item to our SILENT AUCTION on October 24th, 2026
Email wendy@saveourgroundwater.ca for more info.



NUMBERS COUNT, BECOME A MEMBER!

\$5 LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

PAY by e-Transfer to

donate@saveourgroundwater.ca
(Include your name and email address in the notes)

or

PAY through our website:
saveourgroundwater.ca