

From Mikaila Lironi: Big News! After much community input and discussion, the bylaw amendment has been passed to allow the fibre optic cable to come ashore at the barge ramp. I want to sincerely thank everyone for their engagement and enthusiasm during the Islands Trust meetings—it was refreshing to see a full house for a change.

That said, I feel it's important to address concerns regarding the public forum process. The format was designed to ensure fair and equal participation, allowing each individual to speak for three minutes, followed by up to four additional one-minute opportunities. Unfortunately, one community member, after using their full allotted time on Zoom, attended in person under a different name to continue speaking. This not only bypassed the established process, but was also unfair to others who respected the guidelines.

Additionally, a notarized affidavit petition against the fibre optic cable was circulated, which included both a minor's name and at least one forged signature. This raises serious concerns about the integrity of the discussion surrounding this issue. We recognize that changes such as this bylaw amendment can be challenging for some. However, open and honest discourse is crucial in maintaining trust and fairness in our decision-making processes. As trustees, we work hard to ensure that due process is followed, that information is accessible, and that all voices are heard. Moving forward, we hope for continued constructive engagement from the community.
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Wisdom from Xwe'tay Gardeners



Local and Regional Seed Companies

We asked some island gardeners about their favourite local and regional seed companies. These businesses focus on growing seeds that encourage biodiversity and thrive in our specific climate and growing conditions. Thanks to Brigitte, Sue W, Hilary, and Dana for this list. Check out their on-line catalogues.

Local

- **Full Circle Seeds** (Sooke): Seeds grown on their 10-acre organic farm. Their catalogue includes heritage varieties, which are locally adapted and thus produce stronger, more pest-resistant plants with better flavor.
- **Sweet Rock Farm** (Gabriola Island): Specializing in open-pollinated, heirloom vegetable and flower seeds; dedicated to preserving genetic diversity.
- **Omega Blue Farms (Spider Lake)**: Dawn and her team started this farm to take back seed sovereignty and provide farmers and gardeners with high-quality, regionally adapted seeds.
- **Salt Spring Seeds (Saltspring)**: Well-loved by many, offering an incredible selection of locally grown and adapted heirloom and organic seeds.
- **Saanich Organics**. A collective of three women-run farms in Saanich. Many organic veggie varieties, generous numbers of seeds, quick service, good varieties.
- **Small Island Seed Co** (Nanaimo). Eclectic mix of the usual seeds, with special emphasis on disease-resistant and/or cold-hardy locally-adapted nightshades.
- **Tree Eater** (Denman). Mostly a permaculture nursery; nice selection and amazing service and will deliver to the ferry. They carry some seeds for permaculture plants, typically collected from their own stock.
- **BC Eco Seed Co-op**, a collective of small-scale BC seed growers from farms from Courtenay to Salt Spring and Sooke.

Regional

- **Adaptive Seeds** (Oregon): While not BC-based, Adaptive Seeds focuses on breeding and preserving open-pollinated varieties that thrive in the Pacific Northwest.
- **Osborne Seeds** (Washington): A family-owned company that offers a full line of clubroot-resistant seeds. They don't charge for shipping, and their seed packets contain a minimum of 100 seeds—perfect for sharing with friends and neighbors.

Canada and just cool

- **Hanna Earth (Toronto)**: Vegetables, herbs, flowers, some hard-to-find varieties. Good prices on smaller-than-usual numbers of seeds.
- **Gaia Organics** (Ottawa) Huge selection, including a lot of rare/unusual varieties, including blight-resistant tomato varieties and clubroot-resistant cabbage.

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