

# Town Hall News August 2026

## Thank you, Mahone Bay!

There are moments when a community can pause, look around, and say, we did this together. The completion of the Edgewater Project is one of those moments for Mahone Bay.

On behalf of the Town, I want to begin with the simplest and most heartfelt message: Thank you to the residents who believed in this project and in what it could mean for our town. Thank you for your patience and understanding through the inevitable disruptions and challenges of construction. Thank you to our local businesses, who continued to welcome residents and visitors throughout the work. Your support helped make this project possible.

I also want to recognize Town Council and our dedicated Town Hall staff. Their focus, care, and attention to detail throughout this complex project have been remarkable.

Our sincere thanks also go to CBCL and Harbour Construction for their expertise, professionalism, and hard work, and to all of the crews and partners who contributed along the way.

This achievement would not have been possible without our federal and provincial funding partners. The Edgewater Project is a wonderful example of what can happen when governments and communities come together around a shared vision.

Our official opening on August 4 was a particularly special day. Gathering together on Mahone Bay's new Bay Way to celebrate was a wonderful way to mark this milestone. Thank you to everyone who joined us, shared in the celebration, and helped make the occasion so memorable.

The Edgewater Project is about much more than infrastructure. It is about protecting our harbour, improving accessibility, caring for our environment, strengthening our community, and investing in our future.

Most of all, it is a reminder of what Mahone Bay can accomplish when we believe in something together.

Thank you for believing in this project, believing in our community, and believing in our future. This is your accomplishment, too.

Mayor Suzanne Lohnes-Croft

## Picture Perfect Bay Way

The newly named Bay Way in Mahone Bay is a wonderful reminder of how connected our community can be and how enjoyable it is to get around without needing to hop in the car.

Following the water's edge along Edgewater, the Bay Way creates an easy and scenic connection between two welcoming hubs of shops and restaurants. The leisurely stroll takes about 15 minutes, making it a convenient way to travel between destinations while enjoying the beauty of the waterfront along the way.

With the lovely weather we've been enjoying, many people have been making the most of the Bay Way, whether on foot or on wheels. It's more than just a pathway from one place to another, it's a chance to slow down, enjoy the views, say hello to neighbours and visitors, and experience Mahone Bay from the water's edge.



PHOTO: MP Jessica Fancy, Mayor Suzanne Lohnes-Croft, Elder Peggie Wentzell and MLA Susan Corkum-Greek at The Bay Way Opening

## Clearland Road Work Update

The construction schedule on Clearland Road has been impacted by some rainy days. Not ideal, but we all know how much we need the rain.

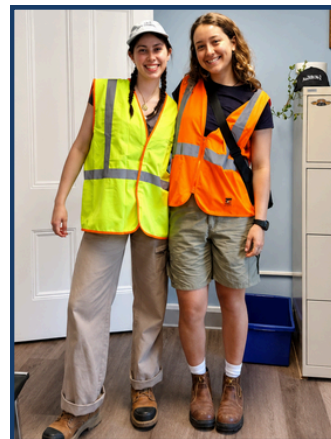
Electrical work is scheduled to begin this week and will continue into next week. Following the completion of this work, repaving of Clearland Road is scheduled to begin mid-to-late next week.

As a result, Clearland Road is now expected to reopen sometime during the week of August 17, weather and construction conditions permitting.

## Meet the Summer Interns

Each summer for the past five years the Town has been fortunate to host interns subsidized by the Clean Foundation's Clean Leadership Summer Internships Program.

Jamie Cox is the Town's stormwater management intern for the summer of 2026. She graduated from Bioresource Engineering at McGill University in 2025. She is passionate about the ocean, hydrology and community engagement which is what drew her to this role in Mahone Bay. Her work with the town includes assisting on stormwater management projects like detention ponds, rainwater collection, field surveying and data collection for mapping the town's storm sewer network and working on the town's stormwater management plan. Her favourite thing about Mahone Bay is the strong sense of community and being so close to the water. Outside of work she has been enjoying exploring the south shore, hiking, surfing and discovering cute local shops and markets.



Gabbie Myers is the Urban Forest intern with the Town of Mahone Bay this summer. A Mahone Bay local, Gabbie is an Environmental Engineering student at Dalhousie University with a love for trees. Her Interests in this internship include growing her communication and public engagement skills, learning GIS mapping skills to update the town's tree database, and to make a positive impact on her community. She has worked on organizing the Spring tree planting and promoting public engagement sessions on invasive species and FireSmart practices, as well as adding to the town's tree inventory. Her favorite thing about working in Mahone Bay is getting to work in her beloved hometown.

PHOTO: Gabbie Myers (R) and Jamie Cox (L)

# Behind the Scenes

Understanding Our Municipal Water Source  
by Gregg Little

Gregg is a member of the Town's Watershed Advisory Committee.

The story of our water source, Oakland Lake, is best understood from 1) its natural features and 2) the Provincial regulations that our Town of Mahone Bay must comply with to draw water from the Lake.

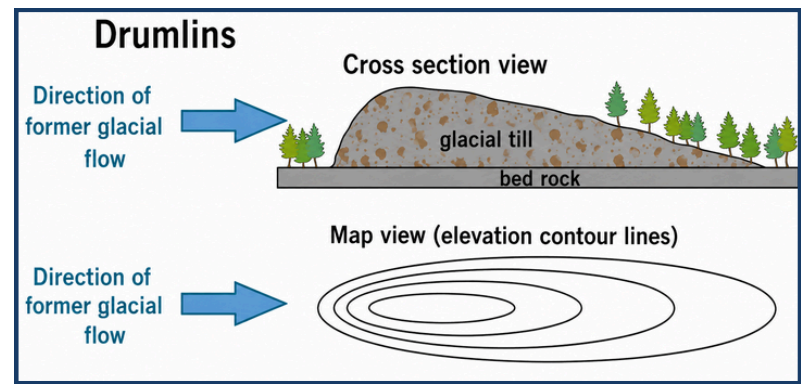
On Hwy 325, after about one kilometre climbing out of Mahone Bay towards Hwy 103's exit 10, the Lake can be seen through the trees on your right. Standing about 26 metres above sea level and covering just over a half a square kilometre, it is one of the province's smallest municipal reservoirs. Nevertheless, the Lake is quite deep at up to 19 metres and, for its small size and overall "U" shape, it does hold significant volumes of water at about 3.5 million litres or 933 swimming pools, if you prefer.

Our raw water withdrawal starts here at the Town's lakeside pumping station pushing water uphill towards Blockhouse to the water treatment plant located on the western edge of town at about 75 metres elevation. After treatment, gravity does the job of moving potable water to residences and businesses via our water distribution system (see map).



# The Lake's Natural Features

The present shape of Oakland Lake Watershed and the lake can be traced back to the last ice age where surface deposits of glacial till, a mixture of rock, sand and clay, left by the retreating ice sheet formed the distinctive hilly terrain underlain by much more ancient bedrock. These hills are known to geomorphologists as drumlins (see cross section).



This area of Lunenburg County has large and extensive drumlin fields, part of which forms the islands of Mahone Bay.

Both the till and bedrock units make excellent groundwater reservoirs that feed and control the lake level and outlet stream flow to Hirtles Cove. The Lake and surrounding area have experienced periods of development over approximately 150-years, including electric power generation. Today, the area has essentially returned to its natural state and has special protections that govern watersheds and their municipal water supply in our Province.

# New to Town?

Have you recently moved to Mahone Bay? Do you have a new neighbour? Let us know at Town Hall and we will send them our new Welcome Pack. A Councillor may even pop by with a friendly hello. The pack is an organic cotton tote bag with a lot of useful information about Mahone Bay and some swag. Also, if you are a local business owner and want to contribute to the Welcome Pack, let us know!

## Trees and Eelgrass

The Living Shoreline extension construction has been completed and now all that's left is the planting of the vegetated bank and saltmarsh. Keep an eye out for planting events in the fall, put on by our partners Coastal Action.

A Dalhousie University Lab was on site in Mahone Bay on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, replanting eelgrass, as part of a project called Community Eelgrass Restoration Initiative (CERI). This is a partnership between the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq and the Future of Marine Ecosystems Lab.



Thirty new trees have been planted in the median along Edgewater Street. We chose three shade tree species and three flowering tree species. There are five trees of each species and they are interspersed, so there is a shade tree and then a flowering tree. They are each planted 10 meters apart. For shade trees we chose American Linden (Basswood), Autumn Blaze Maple, and Northern Hackberry, and for flowering trees, we chose Prairefire Crabapple, Serviceberry and Ivory Silk Lilac.

**SIGN UP TODAY**

The Town uses Alertable to deliver timely notifications about emergencies and community notices, such as power outages, water main flushing, and service disruptions. Residents are encouraged to sign up at [www.townofmahonebay.ca/emergency](http://www.townofmahonebay.ca/emergency).

### Stay Informed

Have you signed up for the electronic version of Town Hall News? Get every edition emailed to you. Just send a subscription request to [clerk@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:clerk@townofmahonebay.ca).

## Town Launches Housing Grant

Mahone Bay is a recipient of the federal Housing Accelerator Fund, administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The Town received a commitment of \$417,000 over four years to support housing initiatives and create lasting change.

In 2026, the Town is focusing on increasing affordable housing and rental availability, responding to a local rental vacancy rate of approximately 0% and limited affordable housing options.

Through the Housing Accelerator Fund, the Town has launched an Affordable Housing Plan and introduced several initiatives, including:

- Affordable Gentle Density Housing Grant: A new program offering up to \$7,000 per eligible unit, to a maximum of \$28,000 per application, to encourage affordable missing-middle housing including secondary suites, and accessory dwelling units.
- Community Land Co-Operative Partnership: Funding has supported geotechnical testing for a future co-operative housing development at Kinburn and Hawthorn.
- Development Fee Waivers: Council has waived Town building and development fees for eligible affordable housing projects until 2029.

Beyond Housing Accelerator initiatives, the Town has taken steps to stimulate housing development in several ways including stronger regulations on short term rentals in the Land Use Bylaw and water/wastewater extensions as part of the Edgewater Project.

Join our community engagement platform at [www.getonboardmahonebay.ca](http://www.getonboardmahonebay.ca) to stay updated and share your input on key projects, bylaws, and policies shaping our Town.