

Town Hall News



Your Voice Matters

Here we go again, a Special Election has been called for the Town of Mahone Bay. This has become a familiar pattern, as the past four council terms have included councillor resignations. In the last by-election in November 2024, fewer than half of eligible voters cast a ballot. That matters, because voting rights in a democracy are the foundation of an equal political voice.

Casting a ballot affirms the legitimacy of our council and local government. It ensures that citizens have a say in how policies and bylaws are created and enforced. When people participate in voting, the municipality gains a clearer picture of what matters most to residents and to the community as a whole.

So why is voter turnout at the ballot box so low in comparison to a general election? One reason is that smaller elections receive little, if any, media attention. There is also a common myth that local elections do not have as much impact on daily life as federal or provincial elections. But in fact, decisions made by municipal councils have more day-to-day impact on constituents and their municipality.

When people participate in voting, elected leaders are more motivated to listen and to represent the interests of the community. Local councils oversee essential services and amenities that we rely on every single day. Strong participation leads to stronger, more responsive local government.

An active voting community preserves one of the key rights in our society: democracy. Voting fosters civic engagement and encourages an informed and involved citizenry. In a time of global conflict and growing challenges to democratic institutions, our freedoms and our right to vote matter more than ever.

Election Day in Mahone Bay is Saturday, February 14. Let's break the trend. Make your voice heard. GO VOTE!

Mayor Suzanne Lohnes-Croft



SIGN UP TODAY

Have you signed up for the electronic version of Town Hall News? This will ensure you will never miss an edition as it will be emailed directly to you. Signing up is easy, just send a request to subscribe to clerk@townofmahonebay.ca

www.getonboardmahonebay.ca

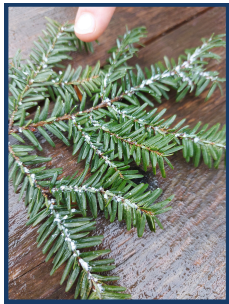
Join our community engagement platform to get the latest updates and have your say on prioritized projects, bylaws and policy development shaping our Town.

Invasive Species Corner - HWA

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) has recently been found within the Town's boundaries, which is bad news for local hemlock trees. HWA is a tiny insect, similar to an aphid, that feeds on the sap of hemlock needles. Over time, this weakens and eventually kills the tree. Once established in an area, HWA can kill up to 80% of infested hemlock trees within 4 to 15 years.

Treatment options are available and can be found at www.nshemlock.ca/node/391. The Town has already taken steps to protect hemlock trees in Jubilee Park and Park Cemetery. Private property owners, especially those near Ernst Brook, are strongly encouraged to protect their hemlock trees as well.

For more information or questions, please contact climate@townofmahonebay.ca.



Winter Parking Reminder



Vehicles that obstruct snow clearing and/or winter road maintenance are in violation of the Motor Vehicle Act and are subject to being ticketed or towed at owner's expense.

Trail Safety Initiative

Local RCMP have launched a new Trail Enforcement Patrol focused on keeping riders and trail users safe. The initiative includes enhanced enforcement, targeted patrols on dangerous and impaired operators, and officers newly trained in the use of side-by-side vehicles to better access trail areas. This is part of a bigger education and awareness campaign.

Next Council Café

Our next Council Café is on Thursday February 12 from 11 a.m. - 12 noon with Mayor Suzanne Lohnes-Croft and Councillor Penny Carver. Schedule your "coffee break" with us and pop in to Town Hall to catch up on news and chat about what matters most to you.



Grants to Organizations

The Town is now inviting applications from non-profit organizations and societies that help enhance the quality of life for local residents. As part of its annual budget process, Town Council will review applications under the Grants to Organizations Policy, including Program and Events, Operational, and Capital Grants. Applications must be received by March 31 and include the organization's current fiscal year budget and previous year's financial statements. Full details and the policy are available on the Bylaws + Policies page of the Town of Mahone Bay website.



Gentle Density Accessory Dwellings

A recent Town survey found that homeowners adding a one or two-bedroom accessory dwelling on their property could help meet some "gentle density" housing needs in Mahone Bay. Grants are available through the Province, and the Town is now developing its own program to help with project costs.

Mahone Bay homeowners interested in this initiative? A Development Officer is available at Town Hall on Wednesday afternoons, and a Planning Officer on Thursday afternoons to discuss your ideas. Call 902-624-8327 to book an appointment.

The Living Shoreline is Growing

Mahone Bay is especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, stronger storms, and increased rainfall. These changes can lead to flooding, coastal erosion, and more contaminated stormwater flowing into the harbour.

Recently, Jordan Veinot of Coastal Action and the Edgewater team met to review progress on the Flood Protection and Shoreline Stabilization Project, better known as the Living Shoreline. This innovative project uses nature-based solutions alongside smart engineering to protect our community and our shoreline. Key features include rock sills, which run parallel to the shoreline to reduce wave energy and storm surge impacts, and tidal wetlands filled with native plants. These wetlands naturally filter stormwater, reduce flooding, and provide important habitat for fish and birds. The project also includes vegetated banks, planted with native shrubs and perennials that help stabilize soil and prevent erosion.

In recent work, construction crews have removed the original rock sill to expand the shoreline from 60 metres to an impressive 160 metres. The shoreline has been extended northward, with sediment laid as a base layer. Once the snow melts, a final layer of sand will be added to complete this stage, followed by Coastal Action planting the tidal wetland.

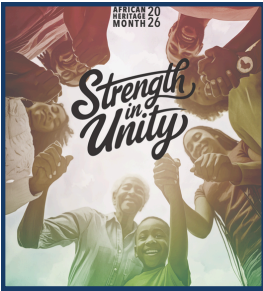
A springtime volunteer planting event for the vegetated bank is also being planned by Coastal Action. While the tidal wetland will remain



a protected wildlife corridor, the benefits will be enjoyed by the entire community for years to come. This expansion will strengthen protection along Mahone Bay's harbour and further reduce the impacts of climate change.

African Heritage Month

The Town of Mahone Bay is pleased to recognize African Heritage Month, a time to honour the strength, resilience, and wisdom of elders whose stories, leadership, and lived experiences continue to shape Nova Scotian communities. This year's theme highlights the importance of learning from one another as we work together to build a province that is culturally, socially, and economically equitable and prosperous. An often-shared African proverb reminds us: if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together. We choose together.



Save The Date

Save the date for the Hi Neighbour Potluck at the Mahone Bay Centre on Saturday, May 23rd at 5:00 p.m. The Centre, in



collaboration with the Town of Mahone Bay, is hosting this event for Mahone Bay and surrounding area residents as an opportunity to reconnect with long-term neighbours, welcome new residents, and foster a sense of belonging. The Centre is proudly celebrating its 25th anniversary this year as the Heart of the Community; it shines as a beacon of hope, connection, and limitless possibility when we all come together.

Upcoming Dates

- February 3 - Policy & Strategy Committee
- February 4 - Climate & Environment Committee
- February 9 - Watershed Advisory Committee
- February 10 - Council Meeting (9 am)
- February 11 - Heritage Advisory Committee
- February 12 - Council Cafe at Town Hall (11 am)
- February 19 - Asset Management Committee
- February 23 - Policy & Strategy Committee
- February 26 - Council Meeting (7 pm)
- February 27 - Cemetery Committee

Staying Connected: How to Keep Informed and Get Involved

We've heard from residents that you want the Town to be more transparent, timely, and forthcoming with information, and we appreciate you taking the time to share that feedback. Open communication is essential to strong local government, and we're committed to reaching as many residents as possible with clear, reliable, and accessible information.

The good news is that there are many ways to stay connected and follow the Town's work. Whether you prefer online updates, in-person conversations, or printed information, we encourage everyone with an interest in municipal matters to mark these pages as favourites and check them regularly for updates and key messages.

Presently, our main public communication channels include:

- [Town Website](#): Your central library of Town information, with daily notifications posted on the homepage.
- [Facebook](#): Daily updates, including weather notices and utility outage information.
- [GetOnBoardMahoneBay](#): Our civic engagement platform for current projects, featuring project information, relevant documents, community Q&As, surveys, newsfeeds, and interactive mapping tools.
- Town Hall News: Monthly updates shared via digital mailout, Facebook (PDF), and printed copies available for pick-up at Town Hall. To be added to the digital mailout list, email clerk@townofmahonebay.ca.
- Council Café: A monthly, in-person meet-and-greet with Council members. Copies of Town Hall News are available to support follow-up conversations.
- Direct Mailouts: Important notifications, appeals, or campaigns mailed to every Town household with a mailbox (for example, special election updates).
- Emergency Notifications: Our current emergency notification service is under review following a cybersecurity breach. OnSolve is transitioning users to Crisis24, and Town staff are carefully reviewing this platform as a potential replacement.
- [REMO](#) & GO ROCK Radio: Trusted regional partners who help share critical, area-wide information during emergencies.
- YouTube: Subscribe to www.youtube.com/@TownofMahoneBayInc and tune in to live Council meetings to follow current discussions and decisions as they happen.

To continue improving communication efficiency and transparency, we are implementing several updates. This includes enhancing the functionality of the Town website and reviewing our emergency notification platform. Our goal is to make it easier for you to find the information you need, and just as important, to share your questions, ideas, and feedback with us.

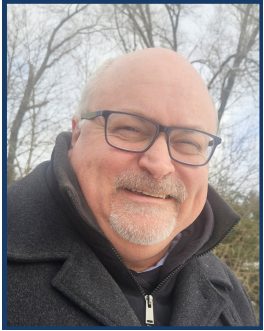
Thank you for staying engaged and helping us build a more informed, connected community.



SPECIAL ELECTION

Meet the Candidates

Kevin Boon



"I'm running to bring clear communication, thoughtful decision-making, and a collaborative approach to council. I see the role as stewardship, balancing long-term vision with the day-to-day realities residents and businesses are facing."

Katherine McCarron



"I would like to be your next councillor. I will be a responsible and responsive steward for the town. I have been engaged with the town on various Committees of Council, and look forward to serving in a fuller role as Councillor."

Michelle Gryphon



"Planning for families is planning for the future. I'm running to bring the perspective of younger residents to council and help ensure Mahone Bay remains affordable, connected, and welcoming for all ages."

Cathie Slaughenwhite-Nowe



"As a councillor I feel my role is to be a positive voice but also one of reason. It should be the goal of our Council to do what is best for all of the people in a financially responsible manner."

Bill Lewis



"Please refer to the Facebook Groups, (i) Concerned Citizens of Mahone Bay and Lunenburg County, (ii) Mahone Bay Community Group and (iii) Mahone Bay Neighbors, to see my postings that detail my platform. Naturally, I am available to discuss matters personally at any time."

Hosted by Mahone Bay
Tourism & Chamber of
Commerce



You are invited to attend the
Mahone Bay special election

CANDIDATE FORUM

An opportunity to hear
from the 5 candidates
up for election.

Submit questions in advance to
michael@mahonebaychamber.com

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4
MAHONE BAY CENTRE GYM
DOORS 6:45PM, START 7:00PM





SPECIAL ELECTION

TWO (2) COUNCILLORS TO BE ELECTED AT LARGE

Saturday February 14, 2026

The election will be entirely online or by phone using a unique PIN (Personal Identification Number). Electronic voting will be available from 8am on February 5th 2026 to 7pm on Election Day, February 14th 2026.

Voting letters containing your PIN will be in your mailbox.

Call us if you do not receive yours.

Those who require assistance can visit the Town Hall between the hours of 9am and 4pm on weekdays from February 5th - 13th and on Election Day from 8am to 7pm.

OFFICE

Councillor

CANDIDATES

Kevin Boon
Michelle Gryphon
Bill Lewis
Katherine McCarron
Cathie Slaughenwhite-Nowe



ASSISTANCE with

VOTING LOCATIONS:

- Mahone Bay Town Hall, 493 Main Street
- A poll at Mahone Bay Nursing Home, 198 Main Street, for residents only .

MORE INFORMATION

Assistant Returning Officer, Clare Blyth

 **902-521-2487**



election@townofmahonebay.ca