



Happy New Year!

As one year ends and another begins, we extend our thanks to everyone who helped make our town a welcoming, caring place. Whether you've lived here your whole life or joined us more recently, the start of a new year is a great time to celebrate what makes our town special and look forward to what's ahead. As the new year begins, life in our small rural seaside town settles into its familiar winter rhythm - quieter roads, crisp ocean air, and the steady comfort of knowing our neighbours and their dogs by name. The start of a new year gives us a moment to pause, reflect, and appreciate Mahone Bay.

Over the past year, we've shared plenty of moments both big (the Edgewater Street Project) and small (the new fishing dock): community gatherings, local successes, and the everyday kindness that so often goes unnoticed but felt. The heart of our town isn't found in buildings or streets, but in the people who call this place home. Whether it is a wave from a passing Public Works truck, a helping hand after a storm, or a friendly chat at the post office, these simple connections are what make our town special.

Looking ahead, the year before us brings opportunities to gather again, support local efforts, and continue caring for the land and waters that shape our way of life. The new year invites us to carry that spirit forward and find new ways to support our neighbours and community. From seasonal events and volunteer projects to quiet mornings by the shore or on one of our amazing trails, there's something grounding about moving forward together at our own pace.

This newsletter will continue to share local news, upcoming events, and stories from around the community. It's a space to celebrate what's happening here and to stay connected, no matter the season.

As we welcome the new year, ToMB Council & Staff wish everyone health, warmth, and a sense of belonging. May the months ahead be filled with steady tides, shared laughter, and the reassuring feeling of being home. Here's to another year in our iconic seaside community - and to the people who make it what it is.

Mayor Suzanne Lohnes-Croft

Community Engagement Update

The Town of Mahone Bay recently launched two surveys on a new Film Production Policy and a Seasonal Sales Bylaw, with a participation deadline of December 29. We're grateful for the strong response and thank everyone who shared their feedback.

In mid-December, we launched a survey as part of Mahone Bay's commitment to the Housing Accelerator Fund to help design a grant program that supports growth and gentle housing density. Share your feedback on www.getonboardmahonebay.ca by January 16, 2026.

Natural Christmas Tree Collection

Natural Christmas tree and greenery collection will take place on Monday, January 12th.

Once again the natural greenery from Mahone Bay will be delivered to a local farm where they will provide food and recreation for the animals. This year the delivery will be going to The Little Silly Goose Farm.

Please make sure your items are free of tinsel, wire and ornaments. Any wires in garlands must be removed as part of regular solid waste sorting.



Grants to Organizations

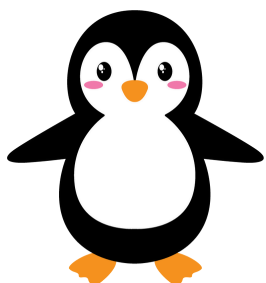
 Mahone Bay Town Council will soon begin their annual budget deliberations. Part of these discussions will include a review of applications for Grants under the Town's Grants to Organizations Policy. To learn more about this policy visit the Bylaws + Policies page of the Town website. Deadline to apply is March 31st.

Penguin Walk

Walk Like a Penguin - Prevent Winter Trips, Slips and Falls!

Walk like a Penguin means to:

- Feet wide
- Knees bent
- Arms out for balance
- Take shorter steps
- Go slow!



2026 Calendars



The Town of Mahone Bay 2026 Solid Waste and Council & Committee calendars have been delivered to all Mahone Bay residents. If you would like an additional copy, please visit or contact Town Hall.

Food Bank



Local food banks are happy to benefit from the generosity of the community during the holidays, but please don't forget the importance of food bank donations all year round.

Non-perishable foods, hygiene products and monetary donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Mahone Bay and Area Food Bank c/o The Mahone Bay Centre, PO Box 489, 45 School Street, Mahone Bay NS B0J 2E0.

Feeding Communities Fund Grant

A special funding opportunity for programs that address food security in Nova Scotia is open for applications. The Government of Nova Scotia has dedicated the proceeds from sales of American alcohol products to support food relief programs across the province.



Incorporated non-profits and registered charities that operate food programs can apply to the Feeding Communities Fund, a one-time food relief grant.

The program is open until January 29, 2026. Full criteria and the application form are available online at: <https://www.novascotia.ca/apply-feeding-communities-fund-grant>

Council Cafe Dates

Mark these upcoming dates on your calendar and schedule your "coffee break" with us! All Cafe's are from 11am - 12 noon.

This informal drop-in event is an opportunity to meet with some of your elected officials, chat about the topics in this month's Town Hall News, and learn more about how your local government works for you every day.

January 15th
February 12th

March 12th
April 9th



Edgewater Project Update

Great progress has been made on Edgewater, and while some work planned for 2025 will now be completed in spring 2026, the street will remain safe and fully usable throughout the winter. The schedule change is mainly due to weather conditions and seasonal asphalt plant shutdowns.



Crews have prepared Edgewater Street for safe driving and snow removal. A base coat of asphalt has been laid, creating a smooth, drivable surface. Catch basins will be adjusted in key areas to reduce winter ponding, and milling work ensures smoother, plow-friendly transitions. Manholes and valve boxes will be raised to the correct level to avoid snowplow damage. Concrete work connecting directly to the roadway, such as curb corners and island edges, will also be completed. New street lighting is energized, and watermain repairs and testing are near completion.

Some work will continue through the winter when weather allows, including commissioning lift stations, storm sewer work near Trinity United Church, fencing, retaining walls, small concrete pads, and electrical work.

Final road and trail paving, landscaping, and finishing details like sod, trees, benches, picnic areas, and signage will be completed in spring. A final layer of asphalt is expected in May, depending on weather and road restrictions.

Looking ahead, Edgewater Street will be fully drivable and plowable all winter, with safety measures in place. We appreciate everyone's patience and look forward to completing final work in spring 2026. For project information as well as to share questions, please visit the Town's Get On Board Mahone Bay site and Edgewater Project page.

Invitation to Serve



We currently have openings for volunteers on the Asset Management Committee and Heritage Advisory Committee.

Serving on a committee of Council is an excellent way to voice your opinion on a topic that is important to you.

To learn more about these committees and how to apply, visit the Committees page of the Town's website townofmahonebay.ca/committees.

Seniors Care Grant



This grant helps low-income seniors with the cost of household services like lawn care, snow

removal, grocery delivery, transportation and small home repairs. Seniors can also apply for help with costs associated with health care services like physiotherapy and mental health support. Grants are \$750 per household. If you qualify, you can apply until March 31, 2026. To learn more visit www.novascotia.ca

Winter Parking

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.



Upcoming Dates

January 15 - Council Cafe at Town Hall
January 22 - Asset Management Committee
January 22 - Audit & Finance Committee
January 26 - Policy & Strategy Committee
January 29 - Police Advisory Board
January 29 - Council Meeting (7pm)

CodeRED Cyber Incident

The Town of Mahone Bay wishes to inform residents that an external cybersecurity incident has occurred at **OnSolve**, the company responsible for the **CodeRED** alert system, which is used by many Canadian municipalities for emergency notifications, including the Town. This system operates completely independently of municipal systems. As such, **none of the Town's technological infrastructure has been affected**, and the situation is strictly limited to the external provider OnSolve.

According to information provided by OnSolve, data associated with the CodeRED platform was removed from their systems by an unauthorized third party in November and may be made public. The personal information provided to CodeRED and affected by this incident consists of basic contact details, including name, address, phone number, and email address, as well as the password associated with the account profile creation.

CodeRED and associated accounts are no longer accessible, as the platform has been deactivated. The risks associated with this incident are mainly limited to the reuse of the same CodeRED password for other services.

What you need to do: If you signed up for CodeRED on their website (not set up for you by Town Hall staff) and if the password you used to register for CodeRED is the same as the one you use to access other online services, **we recommend that you immediately change these passwords and replace them with a unique, strong password for each service.**

The Town would like to reassure the public that:

- No municipal systems have been affected;
- Our infrastructure remains secure.

OnSolve is still investigating the issue and has shut down the old OnSolve CodeRED system. They are moving all customers to the new CodeRED by Crisis24 system. Because some subscriber information may not be recoverable, the Town will share more information later on how residents can sign up for the new alert system once it is ready. Right now, the Town cannot send direct alerts about service disruptions. Updates will be shared on the Town's website and social media as much as possible.

The Town continues to regularly review its practices and those of its suppliers to ensure that they comply with appropriate security standards. As always, be vigilant about unsolicited or unexpected communications. This includes automated phone calls claiming to be from Town staff.

If you have any questions about this, please consult the [FAQ](#) produced by CodeRED on the Emergency Services page of the Town's website or write to inquiries@townofmahonebay.ca

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@townofmahonebay.ca

www.getonboardmahonebay.ca

Join our new community engagement platform and have your say on prioritized projects, bylaws and policy development shaping our Town.

2026 Special Municipal Election



This February we are electing 2 new councillors for the Town of Mahone Bay. On February 14th 2026 and during the advance polling days, residents will cast their votes electronically or by phone. Below is some important information for potential candidates and for voters.

Interested in Running for Council?

Nomination packages are now available on our website or at Town Hall. Nomination day is January 20th on which day no appointment is needed to file a nomination. Early nominations can be made by appointment from January 9nd - January 19th. The last day to withdraw your nomination is January 21st. If you have any questions, please reach out to election@townofmahonebay.ca.

Revision and the List of Electors

It is important to also be sure that you are on the list of electors; it makes things a lot easier to confirm this prior to voting day! Forms have been mailed to all residents of the Town seeking information on persons eligible to vote in the upcoming election. We encourage all households to complete and return those forms to the Town Hall.

Residents may make corrections and/or additions to the List of Electors by contacting the Revising Officer, Clare Blyth at 902-521-2487, or e-mail election@townofmahonebay.ca, or in person at the Town Hall. The last day for the main revision period is January 19, 2026, though changes and additions can be made later.

Voting Method

This year's voting will be done online or by telephone through Intelivote Systems Inc – the same platform as the 2020 and 2024 election and the 2022 special election. Voters should receive a voter instruction letter by late January, once the nomination period is closed. If you do not receive your instructions at this time, please contact the revising officer.

Advanced polling runs from February 5, 2026 from which time voters will be able to vote online or by telephone. A polling place will also be set up at Town Hall for those who would like assistance with the telephone/online system.

Have Questions?

If you have any questions about the upcoming Town of Mahone Bay election, please contact us at election@townofmahonebay.ca or visit the Town website.