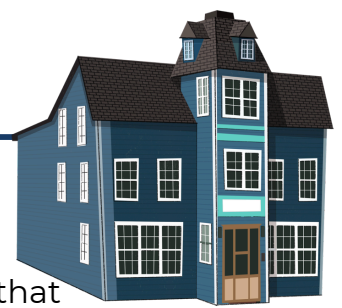


Town Hall News May 2026

Communities in Bloom Week



May 4 - 10 is Communities In Bloom week, a time to celebrate the benefits of the Communities in Bloom (CiB) program and the community-building that happens when many people pitch in to make communities better places to live, work, and visit. CiB is about “Growing Great Places Together.”

In 2024, as both a community volunteer and a council member, I was privileged to team up with 10 other folks to channel creative energies and love of our community to participate in CiB. With much laughter and hard work preparing for the judges’ visit, we documented the many, many features that make Mahone Bay a great place.

More than 18 organizations and 50 volunteers took part in the judges’ tour, showcasing how their activities help Mahone Bay bloom as a community. We received 4 out of 5 possible “blooms” overall, plus national recognition for community involvement and for heritage conservation.

In their evaluation, the judges wrote, “Entering your colourful community on the water is soothing for the soul”! As well as acknowledging the urban forest, lovely gardens and landscapes, and environmental initiatives, the judges observed, “Your emphasis on all aspects of heritage preservation ... is vital to maintaining a vibrant community.” The judges were impressed by our inter-municipal partnerships on energy generation. They were also struck with the “fantastic” Living Shoreline and the exciting plans for the Edgewater Project.

Perhaps, from the prior comments, you’ve noticed that CiB is not just about flowers! CiB focuses on a range of factors that make great places:

- Community Appearance (first impressions)
- Heritage Conservation (natural, cultural, and built heritage)
- Environmental Action (environmental stewardship, policies, practices)
- Tree Management (inventory, policies, management standards and plans)
- Landscape (parks, green spaces, cemeteries)
- Plants & Floral Displays (design, originality, pollinator friendly)

This year, The Town of Mahone Bay has registered again for evaluation and we have lots to show that Mahone Bay is even greater now than in 2024! The judges’ tour will be on July 22 and 23. I encourage everyone to channel their civic pride and play a part in making the town look fabulous this summer!

Let’s do this! Let’s get blooming!

Councillor Carver



Mahone Bay's Volunteer Award

David Hennigar has been named the Town of Mahone Bay's Provincial Representative Volunteer for 2026. This honour recognizes David's outstanding generosity, dedication, and the many ways he gives back to our community.

David is the kind of person who will do just about anything you ask of him. He has been a longtime volunteer at many of Mahone Bay's beloved festivals, including the Wooden Boat Festival, Scarecrow Festival, and Father Christmas Festival. He gives his time, energy, and kindness so generously, always ready to lend a hand wherever needed.

One of David's most special roles has been serving as our town's Father Christmas. He followed in the footsteps of David Abriel, honouring his legacy while bringing his own warmth and spirit to the role. Being Father Christmas is no small task, it means being in many places at once during the busy festive season. David takes this on with joy, dedication, and a touch of whimsy, spreading cheer not only in Mahone Bay but across the county as well.



In all kinds of weather, you can find David out on the streets of Mahone Bay, chatting with visitors and locals alike, and bringing smiles to the young and young at heart. He truly

carries the generous spirit of Father Christmas into every volunteer opportunity he says yes to. What could be better than that?

Thank you, David, for your passion, dedication, and commitment to our community. And congratulations on this well-deserved recognition! David will be recognized for the award on May 12 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers at Town Hall.

Emergency Preparedness Week

May 3 - 9 is Emergency Preparedness Week: Be Prepared. Know Your Risks.

Natural hazards may be beyond our control, but taking simple steps now can significantly reduce their impact on you and your household.

Emergency Preparedness Week is a national initiative encouraging Canadians to get ready for emergencies. Here in Mahone Bay, residents are reminded to stay informed and connected through reliable local alert systems.



The Town uses Alertable, a notification system that delivers timely updates about emergencies and community notices such

as power outages, water main flushing, and service disruptions. Residents are encouraged to sign up to stay informed:

<https://www.townofmahonebay.ca/emergency>

Mahone Bay is also supported by Lunenburg County REMO, which coordinates emergency response across the region. Official updates are shared via LunenburgREMO.ca and their Facebook page. In addition, residents will continue to receive alerts through the national Alert Ready system.

A new addition this year is 107.9 Go Rock, providing another dependable source of critical information, especially useful when internet access is limited.

Taking a few minutes this week to prepare by signing up for alerts, making a plan, and building an emergency kit can make all the difference when it matters most. Join the public information session scheduled at the Margaret Hennigar Library on May 5 at 6:30 pm. And pop into Mahone Bay Town Hall to enter to win a 72/hr kit, a ballot box is at reception.

Help Name The Trail

Help name the new Edgewater trail!

A beautiful new accessible waterfront trail around the harbour head on Edgewater is nearly complete... and now it needs a name!

Stretching close to a kilometre with stunning coastal views, this new route will connect Kedy's Landing to Edgewater and Main.

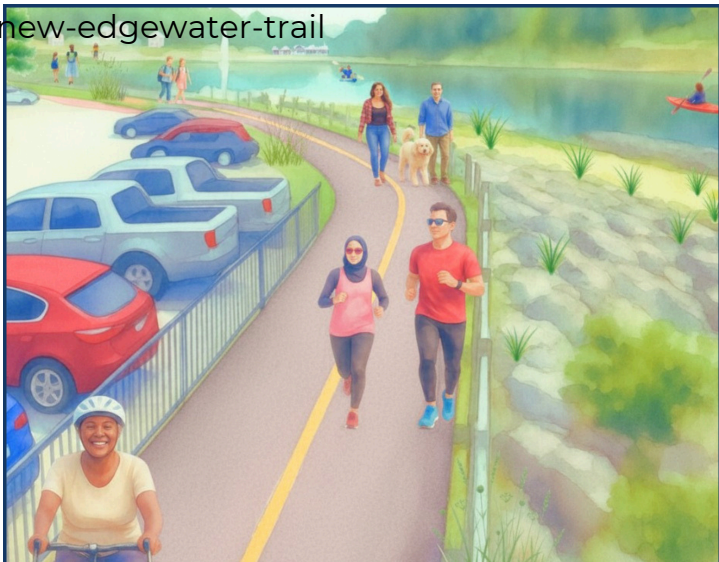
Designed for walking, biking, rolling along and enjoying nature, it also includes part of a Living Shoreline project where community and environment come together.

We want to hear from you! Visit our civic engagement site: [Get On Board Mahone Bay](https://www.getonboardmahonebay.ca/edge-water-project/brainstormers/help-name-the-new-edgewater-trail) and submit your trail name idea and a short explanation behind your suggestion if you wish. You can also support ideas you like by voting. Submit your ideas by May 11!

There is also a suggestion box at Town Hall should you wish to put pen to paper and pop an idea for a name in there.

Let's keep it positive, creative, and full of community pride. Take part today!

<https://www.getonboardmahonebay.ca/edge-water-project/brainstormers/help-name-the-new-edgewater-trail>



Community Events



The Mahone Bay Museum opens for the season on Tuesday, May 26th. Visitors are welcome Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The popular Home and Garden Tour returns June 13th and 14th. Tickets are \$35 each. Details at MahoneBayMuseum.com



A rare invitation beyond the garden gate

Home & Garden Tour

June 13–14, 2026

- May 9 - Veggie Garden Workshop, St James Community Garden, 11 a.m.
- May 10 - Mother's Day Breakfast, Mahone Bay Fire Hall, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m.
- May 11 - leaf and yard waste pick up
- May 16 - Visitor Info Centre Opening Party
- May 21 - International Peace Run, 2 p.m.
- May 23 - Hi Neighbour Potluck, Mahone Bay Centre, 5 p.m.
- May 30 - Garden Club Plant Sale, St. James Parish Hall, 9 a.m.
- May 31 - June 6 Access Awareness Week

Upcoming Budget Edition

After a careful and considered process, Council is in the final stages of approving the 2026/27 budget. Full highlights will be available in our Budget Edition newsletter mid- May.

Upcoming Dates

- May 6 - Climate & Environment Committee
- May 11 – Watershed Advisory Committee
- May 12 – Council Meeting (9 am)
- May 13 – Heritage Advisory Committee
- May 18 – Town Hall Closed
- May 21 – Asset Management Committee
- May 25 – Policy and Strategy Committee
- May 28 – Council Meeting (7 pm)

International Peace Run

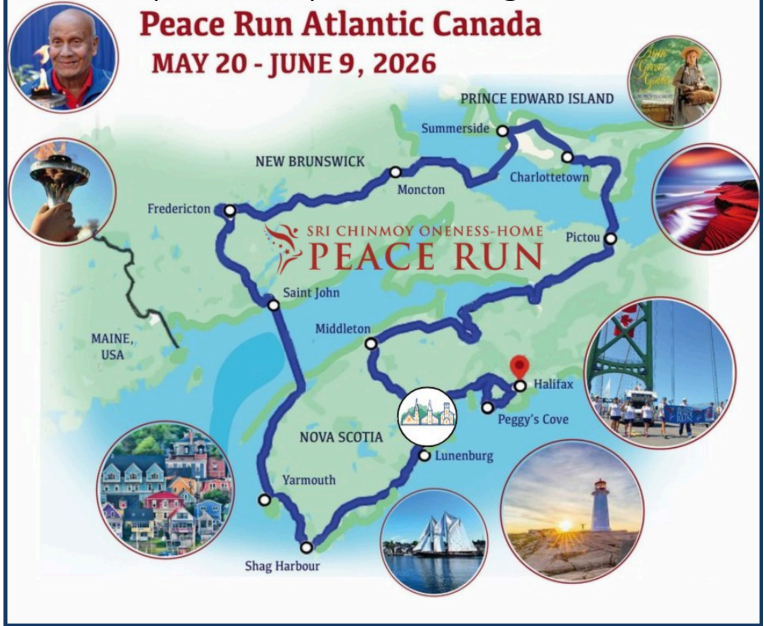
Mahone Bay is going to be part of something really special connecting us with a global mission.

On May 21, Mahone Bay will welcome the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, a worldwide torch relay that has connected over 150 countries in a shared wish for peace.

Since its founding in 1987, the Run has visited almost every country on earth, over 150 nations and territories, and touched the lives of millions of people.

The Peace Torch will visit Bayview School and travel along Edgewater Street to the new trail and then to the gazebo for a short ceremony. Everyone is invited to come out, line the route, and give a warm welcome to the runners.

Be part of a global movement, right here at home. Stay tuned for more details or learn more: <https://www.peacerun.org/ca/>



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.

Hi Neighbour Potluck



In celebration of the Mahone Bay Centre's 25th anniversary, the Town is joining them to host a Hi Neighbour Potluck on Saturday, May 23rd, 5:00 p.m. at the Centre.

This event invites long-time residents and newcomers to come together to foster a sense of community and connection.

RSVP at 902-624-0890 (M-F 10-3 p.m.) or e-mail: welcome@mahonebaycentre.org.

Mahone Bay's Urban Forest

Please take part in Mahone Bay's Urban Forest Management Plan Survey and help shape future plans for Mahone Bay's trees and green spaces.

Your feedback is important and will help guide the work ahead. Visit Get On Board Mahone Bay to take the survey.



The survey includes a short two-page summary. Paper copies are also available at Town Hall. The survey will close May 15, 2026.

Trees help make Mahone Bay healthy, beautiful, and strong. They improve air quality, support wildlife, add shade, and make our community a better place to live. This plan will help protect, care for, and grow our urban forest for the future. Open House: Wednesday, May 20, 5 - 6 p.m. and Thursday, May 21, 10 - 11 a.m. Details coming soon.

SIGN UP TODAY

Join our community engagement platform at www.getonboardmahonebay.ca to stay updated and share your input on key projects, bylaws, and policies shaping our Town.

Mahone Bay Waste Update

Mahone Bay is making real progress in managing waste more efficiently and that's good news, not just for the environment, but for taxpayers too. Here's a clear look at where things stand and why it matters.

In the 2025/26 fiscal year, residents of Mahone Bay sent waste to the South Shore Waste Solutions (SSWS) site in Whynott's Settlement in the following amounts:

Total Waste by Type (Metric Tonnes)

- Landfill: 352.30 tonnes
- Organics (compost): 239.07 tonnes
- Recyclables: 124.39 tonnes
- Wood: 103.77 tonnes
- Metal: 5.11 tonnes

While landfill still represents the largest portion, a significant amount of waste is being diverted through recycling, composting, and material recovery.

Our Town is part of a strong regional effort. Mahone Bay and its regional partners are well below the provincial average, meaning we send less waste to landfill than most communities in Nova Scotia.

- MJSB partner municipalities: 329 kg/person to landfill (47%)
- Regional average (Region 6): 395 kg/person
- Nova Scotia average: 491 kg/person

Every tonne of waste has a cost, but not all waste costs the same.

- Landfill, organics, yard waste, and wood are charged per tonne
- Recyclables are funded through a provincial stewardship program saving \$25 million a year across NS municipalities
- Metal, electronics, and some materials are accepted free

The more we sort properly, the more we avoid landfill fees and reduce overall municipal costs.

WHY SORTING MATTERS

≡ MORE THAN EVER ≡

With new Region 6 sorting guidelines:



More items can now be recycled



Systems are consistent across the province



Proper sorting keeps valuable materials out of landfill

→ **EVERY ITEM SORTED CORRECTLY HELPS:**



Reduce landfill use



Lower municipal costs



Improve environmental outcomes

The team at South Shore Waste Solutions are committed to keeping our community clean and sustainable, managing waste in a responsible and efficient way by:

- Diverting as much waste as possible from the landfill,
- Running operations smoothly and efficiently,
- Providing friendly and helpful service to everyone, and
- Teaching and encouraging people to reduce waste, reuse items, and recycle the right way.



South Shore Waste Solutions

For service updates, waste sorting guides, latest news and online collection calendar, contact SSWS at southshorewaste.ca or (902) 543-2991.



WHAT'S THE FINANCIAL BENEFIT OF THE MUNICIPAL JOINT SERVICES BOARD?



Being part of the Municipal Joint Services Board gives **Mahone Bay** a major advantage:

1

SHARED SERVICES = LOWER COSTS

Waste collection contracts are based on the number of homes, but:

- Disposal costs vary depending on how much waste we generate
- Regional cooperation helps keep systems efficient and cost-effective



2

REDUCED LANDFILL EXPENSES

Less landfill waste = fewer per-tonne charges for the Town.



3

RECYCLING FUNDING

Through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program:

- Packaging producers help cover recycling costs
- Nova Scotia municipalities save an estimated **\$25 million** annually



**\$25
MILLION**
SAVED ANNUALLY

4

ACCESS TO BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE

Regional facilities like **South Shore Waste Solutions** allow:

- Advanced sorting
- More diversion options (wood, organics, metals, etc.)



Working together. **Saving money.** Protecting our environment.