

August 2024

Mahone Bay, NS

## Mahone Bay Electric Utility



*Thomas & Emma Nicol*

Did you know that Mahone Bay is one of only five municipal units in Nova Scotia that has retained ownership over their electric grid transmission and distribution systems?

Owning our power utility has given the Town the ability to make our electricity some of the greenest in the province due to part ownership of the Ellershouse Wind Farm and now full ownership of the Solar Garden.

The history of our utility began with T.G. Nicol, a pioneer in hydroelectricity. Nicol established the Mahone Bay Electric Light and Power Company, with a generating station at Oakland in the early 1900's. In 1906, he sold the company and its assets to the civic authorities in Mahone Bay. When Mahone Bay incorporated in 1919 and became a Town, the Town inherited the power station and supply lines.

The Town's electric infrastructure is managed by three Powerline Technicians, partially shared with the nearby Riverport Electric Light Commission. This means quicker response times during power outages, and that communications about outages come directly from the Town via CodeRED, you can sign up for CodeRED by visiting [townofmahonebay.ca](http://townofmahonebay.ca) or calling Town Hall. Nova Scotia Power's outage map and call centre do not have information about power outages in Town, unless the outage is caused by their transmission lines.

Retaining ownership over our own utility is something that all MB residents, past and present, should be so proud of!

## 2024 Municipal Election



Interested in Running?

There will be two (2) Candidate Information Sessions for those interested in running in the

2024 Municipal Election for the Town of Mahone Bay.

Sessions will be August 13th and August 28th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers in Town Hall.

If you have any questions, please reach out at [election@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:election@townofmahonebay.ca)

## GHG Emissions Event

Come learn about The Mahone Bay GHG Reduction Action Plan! The Town will be hosting a GHG Emissions Event on August 20th from 6pm-8pm at the Community Room in the Mahone Bay Fire Hall (41 Hawthorn Rd.). There will be information on what efforts are currently underway in reducing GHG emissions, the Town's progress, and ways you can contribute to Mahone Bay becoming a greener community! We hope to see you there!



## Aquatic Garden Bridge



We're so pleased with the new pedestrian bridge from Clairmont Street to the Aquatic Garden, and check out that sign!

Thank you to the Mahone Bay Garden Club for all of the work on the entrance gardens!

## Noise Bylaw

On July 17, 2024, Council passed a new Noise Bylaw. The bylaw has created a lot of conversation in Mahone Bay and we'd like to try to alleviate some residents' concerns.

The purpose of the new bylaw is not to stifle ordinary activities or "cancel fun" as has been alleged, but to provide the Town with a mechanism to maintain a peaceful atmosphere to the benefit of all residents.. Section 5a outlines decibel levels and time parameters on continuous noise. A key point here is the word continuous and whether the noise in question disturbs the peace. Also, in 5a, there are distance measurements associated with decibel readings. While it may not take much to reach 70 dBA when side by side, from 15.25m (50ft) away it would take much more to reach 70 dBA.

The enforcement of bylaws is generally driven by the receipt of complaints from the public, staff will not be travelling around town, looking for infractions. If a complaint is received, staff will determine the level of investigation required and take appropriate action. It has never been the practice of the Town to use fines as the primary source of compliance in bylaw enforcement. That being said, fines may be necessary for special or repeat cases.

It should be noted that there is also a mechanism in place to request an exemption to the Noise Bylaw for planned events (Schedule A in the Bylaw). The Town also has a Special Events Bylaw, and if you're planning an event, whether noisy or not, staff are more than happy to help navigate the process. For complaints concerning motor vehicles, the RCMP remains the first point of contact.

Council does not have any interest in being the fun police, we only want to encourage neighbourly conduct. Please be a good neighbour and respectful to those around you.

## Message from The Festivals of MB



Summer is hot but it's always cool in the Bayhive. Scarecrows continue to develop into future attractions.

A large planning meeting will be announced soon to discuss events during the Scarecrow Festival, which will take place from September 27th to October 13th. All are welcome to attend with thoughts and ideas.

Watch our Facebook and Instagram for more information. As always anyone is welcome to visit or help at the Bayhive, in the front lower basement of Trinity United Church.

## Tell Us What You Think!



The exterior of Town Hall will be having some restoration work completed this fall. Part of that work will include re-painting the building.

We've launched a survey so you can help us decide on a colour scheme. Visit the Notices page at [www.townofmahonebay.ca](http://www.townofmahonebay.ca) or the Town's Facebook page for a link to the survey.

## Message from the Mayor

Saturday, August 3, was indeed a fine summer day when many citizens and visitors to Mahone Bay were enjoying themselves. Unfortunately, three trucks and the crews of our Volunteer Fire Department were called out to deal with a severe traffic accident on Hwy 103 just north of the off-ramp to Exit 10. Eighteen of our volunteers responded with three vehicles to work with other local FDs to safely deal with the aftermath.

There was one fatality, and two persons injured in the accident. Our sympathies go out to the family members of those victims.

Our volunteer fire department members arrived quickly and remained until all of the clean-up duties were completed. Their resilience, even in the heat of such challenging conditions, is truly admirable. As you might expect, there was some traumatic impact on our team, especially for the less experienced members of the force. They supported each other at the event and continue to do so as necessary to ensure their psychological scars are minimized.

We are indebted to our fire department volunteers – all of whom deserve our respect and admiration. If you have a chance, thank them for their service.

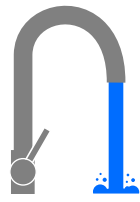


## Lunch Time Closure

Town Hall will be closed over lunch hour (12noon - 1pm) until September 3rd. August is a quieter month around Town Hall when staff can use some of their vacation time. We'll also be on-boarding a few new staff members this month.

If you need to visit the office over the noon hour, please reach out to us and we'll find a way to accommodate.

## Volunteers Needed!



In the Month of August, the Mahone Bay Water Utility will be conducting its annual Lead Sampling Program, testing the homes of 10 volunteers, to meet Health Canada testing requirements.

Lead is not a concern with the water that comes from the water treatment plant but if you own an older home, there could be some lead in your pipes, fixtures, etc.

Volunteer to have your water sampled and the test results will be shared with you. Contact [inquiries@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:inquiries@townofmahonebay.ca) or call 902-624-8327 to sign up!

## Garbage Collection Times

A reminder that according to the Town's Solid Waste Management Bylaw, all solid waste needs to be curbside by 8am to ensure it is picked up. Also, all garbage that is rejected or mistakenly put out on the wrong week needs to be removed from the side of the road by 12noon the day following collection day.



## Agreement with MBCLC



We're excited to announce that the Mayor and Dean Waterfield of the Mahone Bay Community Land Cooperative (MBCLC) have signed a partnership agreement.

This agreement means that the Town and the Cooperative can work together on affordable housing projects. MBCLC is currently cost-sharing on assessment of the Town-owned properties at the corner of Hawthorne and Kinburn Streets - with a \$25,000 contribution from the NS Housing Growth Fund - to support development of not-for-profit housing, via a transparent public process.

## Watershed Land Acquisition



Oakland Lake has served as the water supply for the Town of Mahone Bay since the Town's water utility was established in 1949.

Since that time, the Town has worked to protect the Lake. Legislative protections were brought in through the Provincial legislature decades ago, and more recently the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg – where Oakland Lake is located – has imposed land-use controls in the watershed area.

Despite the protections in place, the Town has long had a goal of acquiring the lands immediately surrounding the Lake, to ensure it is protected from activities which could lead to contamination. Parcels of land have been acquired over the decades as opportunities have presented themselves.

“Oakland Lake is a pristine environment. In addition to providing Mahone Bay with drinking water, the Lake is ringed by recreational trails providing access to the natural beauty around us,” said Mahone Bay Mayor David DeVenne.

To this end, the Town has reached an agreement to acquire some of the last privately-owned lands on the Lake - 58.49 acres - for a sum of \$235,000.

The acquisition of the lands, which are forested and absent development, was recommended to the Town Council by the Town's Watershed Protection Committee. The purchase will be funded by a loan from the Town's Cemetery Reserve.

“The current owners are very pleased to see the Town of Mahone Bay acquire the lands and look forward to working with the Watershed Committee on potential opportunities for residents to experience and enjoy this incredible asset.”

## Mahone Bay Pool

The Mahone Bay Pool as we know it today, located at 91 Clairmont Street, is well over 50 years old and showing its age!



### *Funding Announcement*

The Mahone Bay Lions Club, soon after they established their charter in 1969, set their sights on a very big first project, providing the town with a public pool. They launched a fundraising campaign and obtained donations of labour, materials and equipment. The Council of the time committed property within Jubilee Park and promised assistance with the project.

So many memories have been made at this old pool. But now it's time to look forward to a new facility that will serve the town for many future generations.

In the fall of 2023, Vigilant Management was hired to work with the Town and Mahone Bay Pool Society to complete pre-design work on the new pool with grant funding from the province. This pre-design helped us establish a capital cost for building a new pool and set a fundraising goal. Fundraising activities for the New Pool Project kicked off on Friday, June 28th during the season opener BBQ for the pool's summer season, when the Honourable Susan Corkum-Greek announced a \$1 million contribution from the province! Fundraising will continue until a future Council determines that fundraising objectives have been achieved and it is possible to proceed to tender for construction of the new pool.

To see the full design brief, and for information on how to support this project, visit the Projects page of the Town's website.