

Town Hall News



The new year provides us with a welcome opportunity to review the achievements of the past year and set goals. 2024 was an extraordinary year, both globally and locally. Healthcare, affordability, housing, climate change and aging infrastructure were daily news topics and on the minds of voters during the recent municipal election.

On November 12th, one Council term ended and another began. Following this was a Provincial general election, which overlapped the US presidential election. This left many of us with election fatigue.

However, Council will be rolling up their sleeves in January to plan their term. We will focus on developing a strategic plan, which will guide our decisions and actions over the next four years. Members of Council and senior staff will identify strategic priorities for the new council term. These priorities will reflect what we heard on doorsteps during our campaigns in the recent municipal election, and through public engagement like the survey referenced in this newsletter. This plan will guide Council's intentions for the 2025-2029 term and will be a living document to be reviewed and updated annually as needs and priorities change.

To check out the 2021-2024 Plan & Town of Mahone Bay 2021-25 Strategic Plan Summary, visit the Plans, Reports + Studies page at townofmahonebay.ca.

The New Year is also a time for resolutions and looking forward to the future. My wish for 2025 is that we all find a way to work toward innovative solutions collaboratively. Please give consideration to sharing your time and talents by serving on a committee of Council. Also, I encourage you to complete the strategic plan survey. We have so much potential as a municipality. We may be small, but we are mighty and we are better, together!

Mayor Suzanne
suzanne.lohnes-croft@townofmahonebay.ca

Happy New Year

Happy New Year Mahone Bay!

Town Council and Staff wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2025!

2025 Calendars



The Town of Mahone Bay 2025 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.

Natural Christmas Tree Collection

Natural Christmas tree and greenery collection will be held on Monday, January 13th.



Once again the natural greenery from Mahone Bay will be delivered to a local farm where they will provide shelter, food and recreation for the animals.

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.

Comfort Centre Volunteers

We are seeking volunteers to be the frontline staff for the Comfort Centre at the Mahone Bay and District Fire Department, 41 Hawthorn Road.



A Comfort Centre is a place where people can go for warming, cooling, electricity, washrooms and other amenities during an emergency situation.

To read the Town of Mahone Bay Comfort Centre Operating Procedures and fill out the volunteer application, visit the Emergency Services page on the Town's website, townofmahonebay.ca.

Please direct any questions to Eric Levy, Deputy CAO by calling Town Hall or emailing eric.levy@townofmahonebay.ca

Communities in Bloom



Mahone Bay was fortunate to have a wonderful group of community members, endorsed by Council, to lead Mahone Bay's 2025 Communities in Bloom participation.

Communities in Bloom is an organization, largely of volunteers, that encourages enhancements of green spaces, heritage conservation, and environmental sustainability.

As part of the program, participating communities are judged on their work in several areas. In 2024, Mahone Bay's Communities in Bloom initiative was recognized with the Community Involvement Award and special recognition for Volunteerism in Heritage Conservation.

Congratulations to the Communities in Bloom volunteers!

Invitation to Serve



The Town of Mahone Bay invites volunteers to serve on Committees of Council as part of our commitment to engage the community in the governance of Mahone Bay.

Why Join a Committee of Council?

- An opportunity to voice your opinions in decisions affecting your community
- Better understanding of Town operations
- Meeting like-minded people
- Make a difference in your community

What is required to be a committee volunteer?

- Regular meeting attendance
- Reading meeting packages
- Being prepared to ask questions
- Being prepared to volunteer ideas
- Willingness to share the skills and experience you have that align with committee goals/priorities

We are currently recruiting for all Town Committees and Boards as well as one external appointment:

- Asset Management Committee
- Audit & Finance Committee
- Cemetery Committee
- Climate & Environment Advisory Committee
- Planning Advisory Committee
- Police Advisory Board
- Watershed Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- South Shore Public Library Board

To learn more about Town Committees and fill out an application to serve, please visit the Committees page at townofmahonebay.ca. Please direct any questions to Kelly Munroe, Town Clerk, clerk@townofmahonebay.ca or call 902-624-8327.

Application deadline is Wednesday, January 8th

Strategic Planning Survey

Mahone Bay Town Council will develop a Strategic Plan for their term of office and we are seeking public input.



To participate, please complete the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/GFXK9W5 or pick up a printed copy at Town Hall to be completed and returned.

The survey aims to gather public input from residents to shape the municipality's priorities and strategic direction for the next four years. Your feedback will help prioritize the issues raised during the 2024 election campaign and inform the town's budget process and long-term planning.

This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain confidential and will only be used for this survey.

We appreciate your participation in designing this resident-centric strategy. Together, we can shape the future of Mahone Bay!

2025 Dog Tags



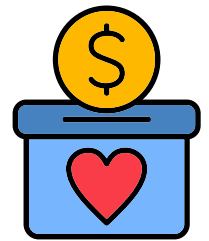
Introducing sweet Sal, the Town of Mahone Bay's 2025 dog tag model! Sal wants to let you know that we now have our 2025 dog tags available at Town Hall.

It is mandatory in Mahone Bay to register your dog each year. Registering your dog annually ensures that we have the most up-to-date information in case we ever need to get your pooch back home.

Registering is quick and easy and FREE! You can stop by Town Hall and pick up your tag(s) in person, or give us a call or send an email and we can arrange to mail your tag(s).

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.

Winter Parking



Winter weather is here and we want to remind you that vehicles that obstruct snow clearing and/or winter road

and parking lot maintenance are in violation of the Motor Vehicle Act and are subject to being ticketed or towed at the owner's expense.

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 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.

Upcoming Dates

Jan 13 - Christmas Tree Collection
Jan 14 - Council Meeting (now at 9am)
Jan 27 - Policy and Strategy Committee
Jan 30 - Police Advisory Board
Jan 30 - Council Meeting

Connecting with the Town

Do you have a question for the Town?

The first contact is always the main desk at 902-624-8327, email inquiries@townofmahonebay.ca. The staff that respond to queries have the best information to connect you with the right person and/or service. If you phone and don't get an answer that means all lines are busy, please leave a message and you will receive a response as soon as possible.



Can we See Your Meter?



And just like that we're talking about winter!

Please ensure that your power and water meters are unobstructed so that staff have safe access to read and/or maintain your meter. When removing snow from your driveways and walkways this winter, please remember not to pile snow in front of your meters.

Off Highway Vehicles



A reminder that it is illegal to drive off highway vehicles on any street within the Town of Mahone Bay limits.

Call the RCMP to report off highway vehicles observed on Town streets, 902-634-8674.

Winter Preparedness

As winter weather approaches, we should all take some time to think about Emergency Preparedness.



REMO (Regional Emergency Management Organization) has a website with great local information on how to prepare for a storm, what to do in case of emergency, and to keep you up to date in a local emergency.

Go to lunenburgremo.ca to check out this great local resource.

Levee



Thank you to everyone who took time to attend the Mahone Bay Legion's 2025 New Years Levee!

Thank you to the Mahone Bay Legion Branch 49 for hosting this wonderful community event.

Plow it Forward

A neighbour may need your help this winter and your act of kindness could save a life. Volunteer to shovel as an individual, family, or friend.

Knock on your neighbour's door and spread some care and compassion in your community.



Battery Recycling



Did you know that Town Hall is a recycling drop off location for used batteries?

Bring us your rechargeable and single-use batteries (weighing 5kg or less). Wetcell, damaged or defective batteries will not be accepted.

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!



Have you signed up for the electronic version of the Mayor's Newsletter?

Signing up is easy, just scroll to the bottom of the homepage at townofmahonebay.ca

