

Meet your Town Council

Members of Council were asked: “Why did you decide to run for Council?”



**Mayor
David Devenne**

In 2008 there was an issue polarizing our town. I listened to the perspectives of friends and neighbours in town and decided that I could make a difference in the outcome of the proposed initiative. And if I was not able to influence that particular decision I knew I could bring a different focus to other aspects of Town business. I was honoured when the voters chose me as their councillor and Deputy Mayor. After two terms on Council I had the opportunity to offer my services as Mayor. Again I heard the concerns of citizens for the future of the town and again I realized that I could make a difference. I knew I could provide the leadership to make the changes that citizens saw as necessary. I am here!

It’s been an honour to have been part of the Town Council for 25 years and still serving. With each one of those years we have encountered changes, and many hurdles to overcome, but I would have to say the best part of the job is seeing such positive outcomes of these challenges for the people of the town. I was born here and truly care about the direction the Town goes in the future, so being part of Council and working with them to do our best to achieve our goals and working with other communities as a group is very rewarding. This is what keeps me excited to be on Council.



**Deputy Mayor
Karl Nauss**



**Councillor
John Bain**

Judy and I moved to Mahone Bay in 1991. The town was attractive and seemed the right place to live and for Judy to open her business. We participated in many town activities and soon got to know many of the residents. I became curious about what makes Mahone Bay such a great place to live. I guess it was at this point I became interested in municipal politics. I talked to the Mayor, several Councillors, and citizens before committing to run for office. I learned that if elected I would attend several meetings and serve on many committees. I personally did not have a ‘single’ agenda. I wanted to better understand the administration. I was particularly interested in the finances. Where do the tax dollars go? What are the priorities and how are they set? What is the budget process? How can the Town be progressive, yet maintain its character, attract businesses, and grow our population? For these reasons, I decided to run for Council

I ran for Council after a community “hot issue” brought me into the public sphere as a relative newcomer in town. As controversy played out in community meetings, letters to editors, and local conversations, I became engaged with residents, Town Hall and community dynamics. When others urged me to run for election I felt that, despite my hermit tendencies, perhaps I had something to offer. I had attended Council meetings regularly for two years. I had experience on several boards and, with a social services background, I looked at problems from many angles. Perhaps I could help foster Mahone Bay as a thriving community. I decided to run and I’m glad I did.



**Councillor
Penny Carver**



**Councillor
Simone Chia-Kangata**

I decided to run for Council because I felt compelled - compelled to serve my community on the one hand; but also compelled to have a voice on the issues that affect me and my community. I am saddened by the level of political apathy that defines our generation and by serving on Council, I am doing my part to make Mahone Bay the kind of community I’m proud to call home – a community that is beautiful, peaceful, safe, sustainable and welcoming. On Council and within our communities, I believe that our diversity and differences make us stronger; I’m proud to be a woman and a racialized person representing the voice of Mahone Bay’s younger residents at Council.

Throughout my father’s thirty years of public service on the Town Council and as Mayor, I had an intimate view of the challenges facing a small community, as he worked with his fellow Councillors making decisions to further strengthen the foundation of our town. We would have our own “Council meetings” after dinner every Sunday evening and my interest in Municipal Government began many years ago. My dad and I had a long standing inside joke that “there is only enough room on any committee for one Joe Feeney at a time”, and so with his retirement from public life last year, I decided to run for Council. With no intention to serve on Town Council as a continuation of the past, but rather to provide some new ideas, from the perspective of a family that moved to Mahone Bay in 1978, and having had a close view of the impact a strong and well-functioning Council can have on a small town.



**Councillor
Joseph Feeney**



**Councillor
Richard Nowe**

Having been born and raised in Mahone Bay I have lived here my entire life. Therefore I am very proud to call Mahone Bay my home. I also feel it is very important to give back to the community. It is for this reason that I have volunteered in various organizations in the Town and area. This is also part of the reason I decided to offer for a seat on Town Council. I felt that I would be able to help our residents even more by having a voice in Municipal Government. There are many ways we can all help make our community a better place to live and I hope by being on Council I will be able to have a positive influence.