

## Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines

Health Canada has recently updated the Canadian drinking water guidelines for lead.



Public drinking water supplies in Nova Scotia have been doing regular testing for lead for years, but now the new guideline limits for lead have been cut in half; from 0.010 mg/L to 0.005 mg/L as the maximum allowable concentration. We know exposure to lead in drinking water can cause multiple health effects on our bodies, so tighter limits are great news!

Although lead can occur naturally in geologic materials, the main source of lead in drinking water is through corrosion of plumbing materials with lead or brass components, such as pipes, solder, faucets, and fittings. The National Plumbing Code allowed lead material in pipes until 1975, in solder until 1986, and in fittings/faucets until 2013.

The Town of Mahone Bay continues to perform lead sampling and work with provincial regulators to ensure sampling protocols continue to meet regulatory requirements. The treatment process here adjusts the water's chemistry at the treatment plant to minimize the possibility of lead dissolving into the water, but additional steps can be taken at home.

Check out these websites for more information:

Health Canada:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/reports-publications/water-quality/what-about-lead.html>

Nova Scotia Environment:  
<https://novascotia.ca/nse/water/thedroponwater.asp>

## Committee Member Wanted

Are you looking for a way to give back to your community? The Town's Planning Advisory Committee has a vacancy and is seeking a volunteer community committee member.

The purpose of the Planning Advisory Committee is to advise Council respecting the preparation or amendment of planning documents and respecting planning matters generally.



Contact Town Hall for more information or to pick up a committee application form.

## Helmet Safety



Everyone on a bicycle, skateboard or scooter must wear a bicycle helmet with the chin strap fastened – it's the law! People over 16 years of age can be charged (and fined)

under the Motor Vehicle Act, and parents or guardians of people under 16 can be charged if this law is broken.



A properly fitted and correctly worn helmet helps absorb the force of a crash or fall, drastically reducing the risk of serious head injury.

## Upcoming Meetings

- ✓ June 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm: Regular Council Meeting
- ✓ June 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm: Heritage Advisory Committee
- ✓ June 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm: Cemetery Committee
- ✓ June 19<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm; Economic Development Committee
- ✓ June 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm; Age Friendly Committee
- ✓ June 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm; Regular Council Meeting

# Mayor's Newsletter

May 2019

Mahone Bay, NS

## 100 Trees: 100 Years

The Town of Mahone Bay, Talking Trees and the Mahone Bay Garden Club are happy to introduce the **100 Trees: 100 Years** project, encouraging residents to plant a tree on their property to celebrate Mahone Bay's Centennial year. Trees provide shade, improve air quality and enhance the beauty of our community.

Thank you to all who attended the project launch with an illustrated talk by urban forestry expert, Professor Peter Duinker, on May 23<sup>rd</sup> which was followed by the planting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tree of the project, a Red Oak which will provide shade at the Jubilee Park duck pond.



*Mayor Devenne, Prof. Duinker and Talking Trees Chair Valerie Hearder at the planting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tree on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

If you plant a tree as part of the 100 Trees: 100 Years

project, register your tree with Town Hall.

Registration means:

- Your tree will be registered on the Tree Map for the 100 Trees:100 Years project;
- You will receive a tree identification tag to mark your Centennial tree; and
- You will receive a pin noting your number on the tree registry.

To stay up-to-date on Centennial Events, go to <https://www.townofmahonebay.ca/Centennial/>

## Let's Talk Trash

We believe that Mahone Bay is a beautiful place to live and we're asking for your help to keep it that way. Remember that we embrace *Earth Day, Everyday!* in Mahone Bay and we have clean-up kits available at the front desk.

Clean-up kits include disposable gloves and a garbage bag that is specially marked so that it can be left curbside with your regular garbage and picked up as clean-up on green days. This is our collective backyard – let's treat it with pride.

### Something to think about:

Cigarette butts are the most commonly picked up item in community clean-ups, but did you know that cigarette butts are not biodegradable? Look for a butt station or invest in a pocket ashtray.

## Outdoor Burning By-law

With the return of warmer weather, please remember to check the Outdoor Burning By-law. Only dry, seasoned firewood may be burned, and all outdoor fire appliances must have a spark arrestor or metal mesh screen. For more information check the by-law online at: <https://www.townofmahonebay.ca/town-government/by-laws.html>

## Dog By-law

Remember to keep your dog on a leash (and under your control) when it is not on your property and to stoop and scoop!



# Budget 2019/20 Recap

On May 14, Town Council unanimously approved the 2019/20 budget - a budget derived from the updated Strategic Plan and the resulting Operational Plan for the town. The plans are driven by the insight of Council, federal and provincial legislation and needs identified by the citizens. Council has re-focused the work plan on the future development and direction of the town that this budget is intended to support. In spite of increased operating costs, the diligent efforts of the Council have provided a budget that balances the fiscal needs of the Town of Mahone Bay to meet its commitments and the responsibility Council has to the citizens.



David W. Devenne  
Mayor



## 2019/20 Operating Budget Highlights include:

- Centennial initiatives with community partners including public celebrations and beautification projects in the downtown
- Additional steps toward a comprehensive asset management strategy, including infrastructure condition assessments and the establishing of a new Asset Management Advisory Committee
- The initiation of an update to the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law
- A shared service initiative with neighbouring municipal units to streamline building and fire inspections
- Website improvements to improve ease of access for the public
- A new public notification system
- Climate mitigation initiatives including a community Green House Gas emissions inventory, Active Transportation Plan, and initiatives to support solar energy generation and electric vehicle use
- Additional community engagement activities
- Continued commitment to build capital reserves necessary for long-term asset management



## Tax Rates

The residential tax rate has increased from \$1.22 per \$100 to \$1.25 per \$100 of residential assessment. The commercial tax rate has increased from \$2.98 per \$100 to \$3.16 per \$100 of commercial assessment.

Infrastructure Charges have been set at \$275 per unit.

*The infrastructure charge is a uniform tax for all residents of Mahone Bay. Each dwelling unit/commercial space/lot is billed the infrastructure charge as part of regular property taxes.*

The deed transfer tax will be set at 1.5%, effective August 1, 2019.

*The deed transfer tax is charged on dwelling units at the time of sale.*

To reduce the impact of taxation, Council has also approved a low-income tax exemption program providing graduated tax relief ranging from \$100 to \$600 to qualifying taxpayers with household incomes under \$32,000. Information on the low-income tax exemption will be included with tax bills issued in July.

## 2019/20 Capital Budget Highlights include:

The Town also approved a Capital Budget including 30 capital projects totalling \$13.3 million over two years, supported by a projected \$7.5 million in external funding (56.4%).

Key investments in the 2019/20 capital budget:

- Several major water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements
- New equipment for the electrical utility and the Fire Department
- Renovation of the Town bandstand
- Plans for the replacement of the Town's aging fire station to accommodate newer, larger equipment and ensure the safety of our dedicated Fire Department volunteers
- Continued investment in recreational properties including the Town ballfield
- Edgewater Street shoreline improvement project – designed to protect Town infrastructure and community assets from the impacts of climate change



## Grants to Organizations

The following grants and subsidies were approved as part of the 2019/20 Budget process:

Organization	Amount
Bay to Bay Trail Association	\$ 1,000
NOW Lunenburg County	\$ 500
Lunenburg Lyme Group	\$ 500
FCM Special Advocacy Fund	\$ 58
LCLC Request	\$ 500
ProKids	\$ 500
South Shore Senior Safety	\$ 545
Mahone Bay Museum	\$ 8,040
Mahone Bay Swimming Pool (Operations)	\$ 10,000
Mahone Bay Home & Garden Tour	\$ 500
South Shore Tourism	\$ 350
Visitor Information Center	\$ 7,585
Festivals and Festival Advertising	\$ 1,450
Mahone Bay Centre	\$ 10,216
<b>Total Grants/Subsidies</b>	<b>\$ 41,744</b>

## Where do my Tax Dollars go?

Taxes on a \$260,000 home in Mahone Bay (median house value 2016 census).

Mandatory Expenditures	Taxes (\$)	Tax Rate
Property Valuation Corp.	\$25	0.01
Policing	\$331	0.13
Transfer to Corrections	\$21	0.01
Education	\$411	0.16
Housing	\$14	0.01
Total Legislative Expenditures	\$802	0.31
Town Expenditures	Taxes (\$)	Tax Rate
General Government	\$610	0.23
Fire Protection	\$127	0.05
Hydrant Fees	\$134	0.05
Other Protection Services	\$61	0.02
Transportation Services	\$393	0.15
Sewer/Garbage Collection	\$363	0.14
Environmental/Economic Development	\$218	0.08
Recreation & Cultural Services	\$103	0.04
Debt Charges	\$101	0.04
Transfer To/From Reserves	\$337	0.94
Total Town Expenditures	<b>\$2,448</b>	<b>0.94</b>
<b>Total Mandatory and Town Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,250</b>	<b>1.25</b>

