

Mayor's Newsletter

May 2020

Mahone Bay, NS

Message from the Mayor

The past eight weeks have had numerous occurrences sent to test us. In early March we became acutely aware of a pandemic spreading around the world. The Western European national health care systems were overcome. Borders were closed. Immigration stopped. Citizens were warned off the streets.

In Nova Scotia the number of persons affected increased sharply. Government Officials and health professionals defined necessary lifestyle changes. Non-essential workplaces closed. Schools closed. Churches closed. Working remotely became the norm. Physical distancing was the new buzzword and the prime directive was to 'Stay the Blazes Home'.

Governments moved to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 with financial assistance packages. Mahone Bay suspended interest charges on taxes and utility bills, and disconnections or tax sales. The Town agreed to participate in provincially sponsored programs. Citizens embraced physical distancing, accepted the loss of recreation venues, accomplished meetings through a window or by ZOOM. Shop owners and eateries provided food services to the citizens differently - coffee served through a window, meals offered as take out. And people kept their physical distance.

Then came Portapique and the murder of 22 fellow Nova Scotians. Although 100 miles distant, the people of Mahone Bay were devastated by this tragedy. The bewilderment, frustration and anger at the events were added stressors. Townsfolk were most saddened to learn CST Heidi Stevenson had given her life in the line of duty protecting us.

But as happens, in times of stress, groups supporting our townsfolk stepped up and did what must be done. This group of heroes includes: first responders; health workers on the front lines; police and their support staff; members of the military; local shop owners, vendors and staff working hard to maintain our food supply; Town staff delivering needed services. Council members are working on behalf of the citizens with a full slate of meetings.

A sincere vote of thanks to all of those special supporters.

But our success in dealing with any major event is due to the character of the citizens of Mahone Bay. Regardless of the event - happy or sad, tragic or tremendous, international or on Main Street - our citizens make our town resilient. As our universe continues to unfold and our town moves forward quietly, Mahone Bay citizens are ready for whatever happens.

Thank you to the people of Mahone Bay.

Making Mahone Bay GREEN

April was Earth Month and there are many things that we can each do to help protect and improve the environment.

Leading the Scene by Going Green

The Town's Strategic Plan includes a commitment to pursue climate mitigation strategies through the completion of a community emissions baseline and the development of a Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

Reduction Plan. Our Climate and Energy Outreach Coordinator, Katherine Dorey, is gathering data for the community emissions baseline.

Katherine was ready to go and meet you in Town, knock on your door, and even share a cup of coffee to hear what you had to say, but COVID-19 precautions sent

her home like the rest of us.

Not to be deterred, Katherine has gone online! If you haven't yet done so, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts online at <http://bit.ly/ghgsurvey/2020> or email climate@townofmahonebay.ca. We won't let COVID stop us!

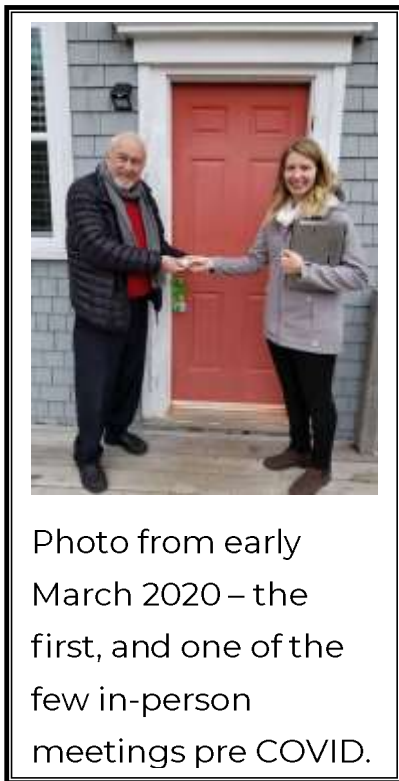


Photo from early March 2020 – the first, and one of the few in-person meetings pre COVID.

Making a Difference



Maeva and Sadie with Mayor Devenne at the January 30th meeting of Council.

In January, Mahone Bay Council received a presentation from Sadie and Maeva, members of the Centre scolaire de la Rive-Sue lego club team. This year's team project was about how

improving the ecological environment for pollinators benefits us all and they asked that Mahone Bay make pollinators a priority.

When Sadie and Maeva presented to Council they reminded us of small things that we can do

to improve conditions for, and therefore attract, pollinators. We've recently been gifted with a grand Pollinator Palace (handmade by Sadie), with spaces for bees and butterflies, and a packet of seeds to attract pollinators.



What are you doing in quarantine? Can you plant something to attract pollinators? Find plans for a shelter for bees? Butterflies? Lady bugs? Go for it!



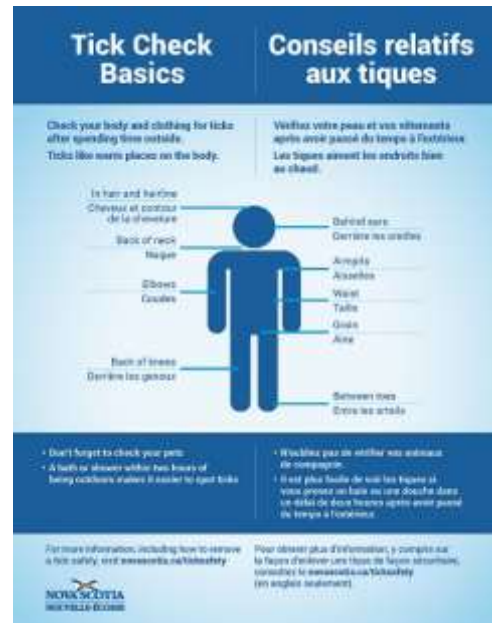
Dog Tags

With the office closed due to the COVID-19 precautions we are sending dog tags through the mail.

Anyone who has not registered their dog for 2020, please contact Town Hall staff with: name, phone number, and civic address of owner(s), as well as name, breed/mix, and description and markings of dog(s).



Remember to check for ticks!



Leaf and Yard Waste Collection

May 11, 2020

A reminder that Leaf and Yard Waste Collection is scheduled for May 11th and everything left for collection must be in paper yard waste bags or green carts.



Emergency Preparedness Week

Find information on the Town website on how to make a plan and prepare for an emergency.



To enter a draw for an Emergency Preparedness prize, send your name, address and phone number to clerk@townofmahonebay.ca or enter by phone at 902-624-8327 by May 15th.

Events Permitting

Do you have thoughts about how events happen in Mahone Bay? Please send us your thoughts/opinions/suggestions by May 15th. Information is available on the Town website and we would love to hear your thoughts!



Important Dates

- May 11th – Leaf and Yard Waste Collection
- May 12th – Public Hearing (Revised Outdoor Burning By-law)
- May 12th – Council Meeting – 7pm
- May 13th – Heritage Advisory Committee – 6:30pm
- May 21st – Asset Management Committee – 3:30 pm
- May 25th – Age Friendly Community Committee – 7pm
- May 28th – Council Meeting – 7pm

Council meetings are live on YouTube!

COVID-19 Response



Council meetings can be watched live on YouTube. Agendas and meeting packages are on the Town website three days before each Council meeting. Draft minutes and the recording of the meeting are available on the Town website within 24 hours of the meeting.

Committee meetings are now starting up again online.



Essential Town services are not being interrupted. Public Works and Utilities staff are working with new safety protocols, while office staff are working remotely and continue to monitor phones and email.



Building and Planning Services are still available and we ask that, if possible, plans be submitted electronically to inquiries@townofmahonebay.ca.

Payment is due at the time of application. Please be aware that there may be delays due to COVID safety protocols.



Payments may be made via the drop-box beside the front door of Town Hall; using online banking; or through your personal bank.



Interest on tax and utility billings has been suspended, as have utility disconnects and tax sales, specifically to provide relief to those residents and businesses who have been financially impacted by the COVID pandemic.

It is very important that those who are able continue to pay their bills to support the continued provision of essential Town services



Curbside waste collection continues as normal. The waste site in Whynott's Settlement has begun to re-open. Call ahead at 902-543-2991 for more information on public access



Outdoor spaces are now open with safety protocols in place. These spaces are open for use by community members, by themselves or with members of their own households. Equipment cannot be shared outside of a household (i.e. tossing or kicking a ball)



Playgrounds remain fully closed.



6' distance



Remember to maintain 6' of distance