

# Mayor's Newsletter

July/August 2020

Mahone Bay, NS

## Plan Mahone Bay is here!



Plan Mahone Bay is the process by which we will ask for feedback from residents and

businesses, community members and stakeholders to review and update the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy. The Municipal Planning Strategy is the document that sets the Town's vision for the future, for how we want our community to grow, what we want to protect, and what we consider to be important in future decisions for Mahone Bay. It's a big deal. That's why we need to hear from you.

There will be a lot of different ways to share your thoughts. There are currently six small (temporary) yarn art installations around Town with questions about what is important to you.



Each sign has directions to text or email your responses.

Look for these signs around town.

For more ways to share your feedback, and to learn more about the process on the project website: [planmahonebay.ca](http://planmahonebay.ca). We are looking forward to hearing what you have to say.

## Municipal Property Tax Financing Program

**Deadline: July 31<sup>st</sup>**

If you own property in Mahone Bay and you are having difficulties paying your property taxes due to financial hardships caused by COVID-19, please contact us about the Municipal Property Tax Financing Program.



Application forms are available on the Town website and staff are happy to answer any questions. Contact staff at 902-624-8327 or by email at [clerk@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:clerk@townofmahonebay.ca).

## Mahone Bay PRIDE

Mahone Bay is home to a new PRIDE crosswalk, on Main Street at Pleasant Street, and the PRIDE flag was hoisted on our new community flagpole on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. While a PRIDE flag has flown at Town Hall for several years, the new flagpole is an opportunity to host flag raising events in future years when the COVID precautions have passed.



The response of Council and the public clearly shows that Mahone Bay is committed to being an inclusive town.

## Eating and Shopping Locally

Eating for our environment is an important step in reducing our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Eating for our environment means eating local, and sustainably grown foods. Did you know that beef, cheese, and coffee have some of the highest emissions due to the land use change and farming methods. By reducing our meat consumption, opting for plant-based meals and choosing locally, ethically sourced foods we can begin to reduce our GHG emissions while also supporting our local businesses, farmers, neighbours, and friends.



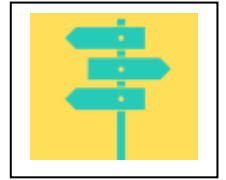
While shopping and ordering online from a distant retailer we emit 2.5 times the GHG emissions associated with shipping and delivery. Consider the transportation emissions from bringing in fruits and vegetables from other countries when we have abundant suppliers here in Canada and Nova Scotia.

### Quick Tips:

- ✓ Try Meatless Mondays. Challenge yourself to try plant-based meals once a week.
- ✓ Check the country of origin for your fruits and vegetables and choose Canadian if possible. Better yet – attend a local Farmer's Market.

## Wayfinding Survey

The Town of Mahone Bay and the Mahone Bay Tourism and Chamber of Commerce have begun a process to improve Wayfinding Signage in Mahone Bay. Wayfinding Signage is signage intended to assist visitors to Mahone Bay with finding their way around our community and does not include regulatory signage such as Stop or Yield signs.



Please take two minutes to complete the Wayfinding Signage which can be found on our website and our facebook page.

## Meet the Climate and Energy Team

The Climate and Energy Team has been gathering Greenhouse Gas (GHG) baseline data from municipal and community uses through an online survey. During COVID isolation, they have been reaching out to the community by phone, but staff are now resuming their door-to-door outreach. The survey can be completed outdoors

while maintaining social distancing and staff members will be wearing masks. If no one is home, or if community members are not comfortable discussing in person, staff will leave a door knocker with information to follow-up online or by phone.

A graphic with a green background. At the top, it says "The Green Team is coming for a visit... at a distance!". Below the text is an illustration of a woman with red hair wearing a blue shirt and a green face mask, holding a clipboard and gesturing with her hand. To her right is a small house with a red roof. A double-headed arrow between the woman and the house is labeled "2 metres".

Katherine D. and Katherine M. hope to chat with you.

## Volunteers Needed!

The Mahone Bay Water Utility is expanding its Annual Lead Sampling Program to meet the updated testing requirements from Health Canada.



We are looking for property owners to let us collect a water sample from their tap. The sampling is free, and test results will be shared with the property owner.

Lead is not a concern in the water that comes from the Treatment Plant, but there can be an issue on private property if the property owner has pipes, solder, brass fixtures, faucets and fittings that contain lead that can leach into the water that comes out of the tap.

Mahone Bay has a corrosion control program to help minimize lead corrosion, but this expanded testing program would allow private property owners to know what is coming from their tap.

Please call 902-624-8327 to find out if you are eligible to participate.

## Virtual Home and Garden Tour

If you haven't yet seen the Mahone Bay Museum's Virtual Home and Garden Tour, check it out at [mahonebaymuseum.com](http://mahonebaymuseum.com).

The annual Home and Garden Tour is an important fundraiser and a much enjoyed annual event for the Mahone Bay Museum.

## Electric Utility Tree Maintenance

The Mahone Bay Electric Utility performs routine tree trimming to maintain safe space around power lines and to prevent the need to remove overgrown trees whenever possible.



- Downed limbs and trees are the most common cause of power outage within the Mahone Bay Electric Utility.
- Branches can become heavy with ice and snow and drop down into contact with the lines, causing an outage.
- Regular maintenance prevents limbs from growing in among power lines and blocking access to poles for utility staff.
- A safe distance of 10' from power lines is needed to allow limbs to be able to blow in the breeze and to prevent new shoots from growing into powerlines.

2020 routine tree maintenance will begin soon to prepare for hurricane season and winter weather. Watch for Town crews at:

- Longhill Road
- Mader's Cove to Town line
- Main Street



Mentioning the upcoming hurricane

season... have you signed up to get notifications from the Town through CodeRED? This mass notification system allows us to send messages out to the community quickly in the event of an emergency. Register on our website or call Town staff for assistance.

## **Dogs in the Cemetery**

Mahone Bay is a dog-friendly town, but we remind dog owners that leashes and cleaning up after your pet are mandatory in the town, including the cemeteries.



Off leash pets, and dog feces, have no place in the cemetery, and it is disrespectful to mourners. Please remember the importance of being a responsible dog owner.

## **Election 2020 – List of Electors**

Watch for information coming out soon to confirm your information for the voting list. The Municipal Election will be held October 17<sup>th</sup> – more information will be released in the days to come.

## **Town of Mahone Bay COVID-19 Update**



Town Hall remains closed until we can safely accommodate staff and the public. All Town services are still available, and payments can be made via the drop-box by the front door or online banking; call 902-624-8327 if you need assistance.

The Mahone Bay and Area Pool will remain closed for 2020.



The Town is now able to take bookings for the Michael O'Connor Memorial Bandstand and the Ballfield. Please contact staff about additional safety precautions.



## **Public Hearings**



The Town of Mahone Bay holds a Public Hearing to receive comments from the public before Council considers a by-law for the second and final reading. Comments can be submitted in writing, or by participating in the meeting.

Copies of By-laws are available on the Town website in advance of Public Hearings for the public to view. For assistance with accessing draft by-laws or to join a Public Hearing please call Town Office staff at 902-624-8327 or email [clerk@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:clerk@townofmahonebay.ca) and staff will be happy to assist.

## **Important Dates**

- July 30<sup>th</sup> – Public Hearing – Alternative Voting By-law – 6:30pm
- July 30<sup>th</sup> – Council Meeting – 7pm
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Holiday Closure
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – Public Hearing – Temporary Vending By-law and Special Events By-law – 6:30pm
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – Special Council Meeting – 7pm
- August 14<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Closure

## **Council meetings are live on YouTube!**

- Search: **Town of Mahone Bay** -

**In this time of COVID, if you would like to speak with the Mayor on any Town issue, telephone him 9am – 5pm daily at 902-521-5650**