

Budget 2023/2024 Recap

- 2023/24 General Operating Budget \$3,212,608
- 2023/24 Capital Budget \$5,166,431 with projected \$2,850,496 in external funding
- 2023/24 Fire Department Operating Budget \$461,337
- 2023/24 Fire Department Capital Budget \$418,000
- 2023/24 Electric Utility Operating Budget \$2,858,328
- 2023/24 Electric Utility Capital Budget \$ 649,000
- 2023/24 Water Utility Operating Budget \$798,631
- 2023/24 Water Utility Capital Budget \$359,900
- 2023/24 Bayview Cemetery Budget \$12,500; Park Cemetery Budget \$19,000

Projects and Initiatives in Support of Council's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

- Development of an Urban Forest Management Plan to guide Town vegetation management / management of Town-owned properties and inform private practices and new development.
- Additional funds for tree planting and installation of benches and picnic tables, to support donations from the community.
- Building on the Provincial Housing Needs Assessment currently underway, an initiative to develop a local Housing Strategy.
- Required studies and diagnostic work to improve the performance of the Town's water, wastewater and stormwater systems and better target investment dollars.
- Support for a cooperative management agreement for the newly improved community sports field, with the Mahone Bay Centre Society and Mahone Bay United Soccer Association.
- Conclusion of the "Plan Mahone Bay" public process to review and update the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law, conducted by Upland planning + design.
- Building on the development of an Accessibility Action Plan for the Town – in accordance with the Lunenburg County Accessibly Plan – and conducting accessibility audits of the Town's recreational infrastructure.

Council understands that while the Town's residential tax rates haven't increased in several years, many residents will be paying more than they did last year due to rising assessments. To assist low-income tax payers Council offers a Low-Income Property Tax program, which now provides assistance up to \$1,000 to those with household incomes of \$40,000 or less.

What's Behind the Budget? The Strategic Plan

The Town of Mahone Bay 2021-2025 Strategic Plan is the document that captures the intentions for this Council's term.

Starting in January 2021, Council began discussions about what they heard from residents and what the Town has learned from public engagement. From that information, Council and staff worked together to identify three strategic priorities for this Council term. The plan is reviewed each year with the second annual review of the strategic plan completed in April 2023.

The Strategic Priorities, as well as the actions that will make those priorities a reality, then serve as a guide for Council at budget time.



Our Mission

To provide high-quality services to our community, through efficient, responsible and accessible Municipal government.

Our Vision

An inclusive, thriving, and healthy community committed to fostering collaborative opportunities for sustainable growth.

Our Core Values

Are the deeply ingrained principles that guide Town Councillors and Staff in the timely and collaborative delivery of services and support to our community.

Accessibility - Accountability - Equity - Fairness - Honesty - Responsiveness - Stewardship

Key Measurable Results (to achieve by 2025)

- 10% population increase with diversity in age, ethnicity and income
- Increased supply of affordable housing (costing less than 30% of Mahone Bay's median household income) to 25% of total housing units
- 50% replacement of the Town's core water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure on Main Street
- 80% of the power for the Town's electric utility comes from renewable sources.

Be sure to read the full Town of Mahone Bay 2021 - 2025 Strategic Plan on the Town website at www.townofmahonebay.ca

Tax Rates

The approved 2023/2024 residential tax rate remains at \$1.115 per \$100 of assessment for the fourth year in a row. The commercial tax rate is also staying steady this year at \$3.055 per \$100 of assessment.



The fire protection services rate - applicable to both residential and commercial properties is increasing to \$0.209 per \$100 of assessment with the new fire station and truck purchases.

The infrastructure charge, which contributed to everything from roadwork to wastewater mains to recreational facilities, remains at \$300 per dwelling unit. The infrastructure charge is a uniform tax for all residents and commercial property owners of the Town.

The deed transfer tax remains the same at 1.5%. Deed transfer tax is charged on dwelling units at the time of sale.

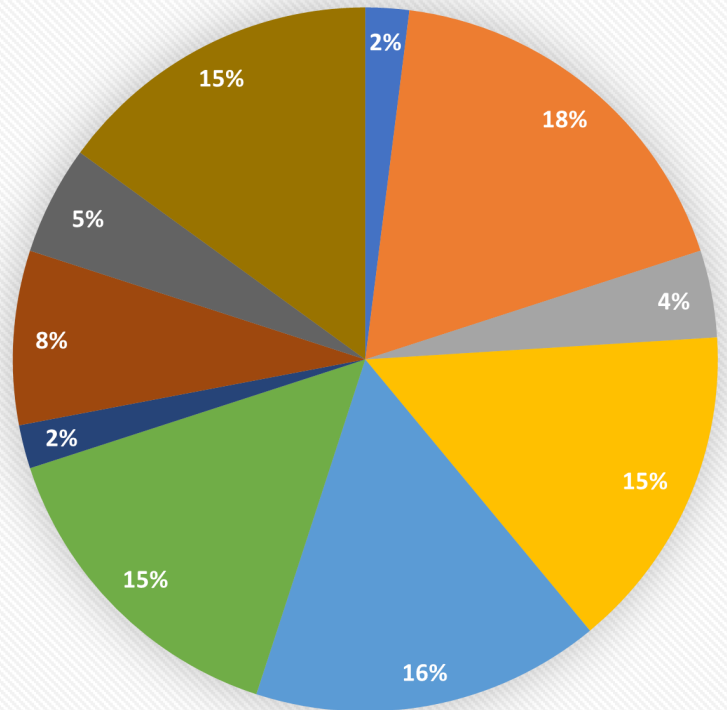
Community Grants

Bay to Bay Trails Association	\$500
Bonnie Lea Farm	\$250
MBTCC	\$3,400
Heritage Boatyard Co-op	\$125
MB Founders Society	\$500
MB Music Association	\$3,000
MB United Soccer Association	\$6,261
Bay Area Legends T-Ball	\$500
South Shore Sexual Health Society	\$500
South Shore Summer Theatre	\$1,000
Mahone Bay Centre Society	\$3,748
Unallocated	\$2,000

Total **\$21,784**

To read the Town of Mahone Bay's full 2023/2024 budget, visit www.townofmahonebay.ca/finance

2023/24 Budget Expenditures



- Legislative Expenses
- General Government Services
- Taxation Rebates & Reductions
- Protective Services
- Transportation Services
- Environmental Health Services
- Public Health & Welfare Services
- Environmental Development Services
- Recreation, Cultural Services
- Education & Tax Rebates

2023/2024 Capital Budget Highlights

The Town Council approved new and ongoing capital expenditures for 2023-24 - including general and utility budgets - totaling \$6.2 million, supported by a projected \$2.85 million in external funding.

Key investments in the capital budget include:

- Completing construction of the Community Solar Garden located at the Town's wastewater treatment facility, a key step in reaching Council's ambitious target of 80% renewable energy by 2025 (the Province has set a target of 2030 for all electrical utilities), while providing residents with sustainable locally-sourced electricity at stable rates.
- Purchases of new equipment for the Public Works Department, utilizing the Town Equipment reserve put aside by Town Council for this purpose.
- Investments in wastewater system infrastructure including lift stations.
- Substantial engineering work to prepare for projects planned to take place in 2024 and 2025, supported by external funds, including:
 - Continuation of the living shoreline on Edgewater Street
 - Installation of new coastal multi-use trail on Edgewater Street
 - Replacement and upgrade of water and wastewater infrastructure on Main Street
 - Improvement of stormwater management infrastructure at the corner of Fairmont and Pine Grove Streets
- Modernizing electrical utility infrastructure to keep pace with growth and meet federal requirements for disposal of PCBs;
- Design work for the renovation / rebuilding of the Mahone Bay Pool, anticipated in 2024.

Water Utility Capital Budget

The capital budget includes a continuation of upgrades to primary water distribution infrastructure on Main Street. The benefits include reducing water loss, improving flows for fire protection and supporting development.



It is anticipated that this major project will be supported by 73% Federal and Provincial funding!

Electric Utility Budget

With the increasing price of market electricity in recent years, the Town applied to the NSURB for rate increases. Operating cost increases are not a major factor in increasing electrical rates. The Town works closely with other municipal and electrical utilities to share resources and reduce operating costs.



To combat rising market prices and meet Provincial targets for renewable energy the Town has invested in the development of a community solar garden. When fully operational late in 2023 the solar garden will produce 16-18% of Mahone Bay's electricity at rates that will remain stable in future years, while market prices continue to rise. The Town Council's 2021-25 strategic plan established the goal of 80% renewable energy on the Town's grid by 2025.