

# Town Hall News



## Your Voice Matters

Here we go again, a Special Election has been called for the Town of Mahone Bay. This has become a familiar pattern, as the past four council terms have included councillor resignations. In the last by-election in November 2024, fewer than half of eligible voters cast a ballot. That matters, because voting rights in a democracy are the foundation of an equal political voice.

Casting a ballot affirms the legitimacy of our council and local government. It ensures that citizens have a say in how policies and bylaws are created and enforced. When people participate in voting, the municipality gains a clearer picture of what matters most to residents and to the community as a whole.

So why is voter turnout at the ballot box so low in comparison to a general election? One reason is that smaller elections receive little, if any, media attention. There is also a common myth that local elections do not have as much impact on daily life as federal or provincial elections. But in fact, decisions made by municipal councils have more day-to-day impact on constituents and their municipality.

When people participate in voting, elected leaders are more motivated to listen and to represent the interests of the community. Local councils oversee essential services and amenities that we rely on every single day. Strong participation leads to stronger, more responsive local government.

An active voting community preserves one of the key rights in our society: democracy. Voting fosters civic engagement and encourages an informed and involved citizenry. In a time of global conflict and growing challenges to democratic institutions, our freedoms and our right to vote matter more than ever.

Election Day in Mahone Bay is Saturday, February 14. Let's break the trend. Make your voice heard. GO VOTE!

Mayor Suzanne Lohnes-Croft



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