



Mayor's Holiday Message

This being the first holiday season in 3 years without any pandemic restrictions, the 2022 season will look a little different this year for many.

As we gather in larger groups to celebrate, or travel once again to see family and friends, we must remember that some will face daunting challenges this year. Christmas is a blessing and a time of joy for some; for others it can be a time of loneliness and especially now, a time of financial stress.

For those who are able, it is important all year round, but especially during the holidays, to check in with your neighbours and your friends that might need a chat or a visit. Support our local businesses, that are trying to bounce back from a very difficult few years and are now facing new economic challenges. Donate your time, money, items, or whatever you are able to support local charities who work so hard this time of year to attempt to fill the needs of our community.

On behalf of your Council and Town Hall staff, I wish you the best that this season has to offer and a happy and prosperous 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of the Mayor.

Food Bank

A message from the Mahone Bay and Area Food Bank:



With the holiday season fast approaching we ask that you keep the Mahone Bay and Area Food Bank in mind. This can be an especially difficult time of year for many families in our communities.

Non-perishable foods and monetary donations can be dropped off or mailed to Mahone Bay Area Food Bank c/o The Mahone Bay Centre, PO Box 489, 45 School Street, Mahone Bay NS B0J 2E0. Town Hall is also accepting donations of non-perishables on our behalf.

Thank you all for your donations. Without the continued support of our many donors we would not be able to provide the much needed food items and supplies to our clients. We are privileged to have your support.

Natural Christmas Tree Collection



Natural Christmas tree and greenery collection will be held on January 9, 2023

Once again the natural greenery from Mahone Bay will be delivered to a local farm where they will provide shelter, food and recreation for the animals.

Please make sure your items are free of tinsel, wire and ornaments. Any wires in garlands must be removed as part of regular solid waste sorting.



Trash 2 Cash



Trash 2 Cash 4 Charity is a local charity that collects refundable recyclables and donates the funds to the Mahone

Bay and Area Food Bank and the 3 Churches Foundation. If you would like to donate your post holiday refundables to this great cause please contact JayMe Rowat, (902) 233-8358.

'Tis the Season to Shop Local

The holidays are just around the corner, and the Town of Mahone Bay would like to encourage and remind residents of the importance of shopping locally!



By choosing to purchase locally, you are not only supporting a neighbour, but are also reducing your carbon footprint. Online shopping typically results in more packaging and more than twice the amount of CO2 emissions as traditional shopping. Let's all do our part to help make this Christmas a green one!

New Years Levee

Once again the New Year's Levee will not take place this year. While the volunteers from the Legion are not able to host the Levee this year, we will take this opportunity to thank them and all of the many volunteers that contribute to life in Mahone Bay.

We are lucky to live in a community of kind and dedicated people.

Let's all strive to enter 2023 with kindness and compassion

2023

Dog Tags



Introducing Zoe Veinotte!
Zoe is the holder of 2023 dog tag #001.

Zoe wants to remind you to be sure and get your dog's new tag ASAP.

Annual Dog Registration is mandatory in Mahone Bay and FREE because we want to be sure that we have the most up to date information on your pooch. If your dog doesn't have their 2023 dog tag, come in today (Reminder: we have dog cookies!). Or you can email or phone and we can arrange to mail your tag to you.

Community Solar Garden

All of the foundations and racking are installed at the Community Solar Garden, and we even have solar panels in place. This is a huge leap forward in our ultimate goal of producing more of our own, renewable, municipally-owned energy.



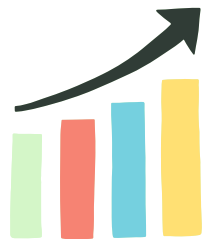
You can read the monthly solar garden updates on the Community Solar Garden page on our website.

EV Statistics

Our electric vehicle chargers have been used over 946 hours since being installed last winter.

This is allowing visitors to take advantage of our green energy while touring the Town!

You can find these chargers located at Town Hall, Clairmont Street (by the Pharmasave), Main Street (at Clearway), the Mahone Bay Centre, the Mahone Bay Civic Marina, and the new Fire Station.



Winter Preparedness

As winter weather approaches, we should all take some time to look at the Emergency Preparedness website.



REMO (Lunenburg County Regional Emergency Management Organization) has a website with great local information on how to prepare for a storm, what to do in case of emergency, and to keep you up to date in a local emergency.

Go to lunenburgremo.ca to check out this great local resource.



Have you registered for CodeRED, the Town of Mahone Bay's mass notification system? The free service allows us to get emergency messages out into the community. You can register by clicking the CodeRED link on the home page of the Town's website.

Battery Recycling

Did you know that that Town Hall is now a recycling drop off location for used batteries?



Bring us your rechargeable and single-use batteries (weighing 5kg or less each). Wetcell, damaged, or defective batteries will not be accepted.

Winter Parking



Please remember that vehicles that obstruct snow clearing and/or winter road maintenance are in violation of the Motor Vehicle Act and are subject to being ticketed and/or towed at the expense of the owner.

Rate Application

For the first time in nearly 15 years, the Town of Mahone Bay is applying for a significant increase in electrical rates.

The cost of power has skyrocketed in the volatile global energy market. While the Town generates 42% of the electricity used by the customers of our electric utility, we are still required to purchase electricity to meet the remainder of our electricity needs, making us subject to the market.

In the time since the Town made our application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB), the Province has stepped in with amendments to the Public Utilities Act which limit the increases that Nova Scotia Power is able to pursue.

To be frank, we don't know what this will do to the real cost to us to purchase power. The decision of the NSUARB regarding the rate application by Nova Scotia Power will not be known until the new year. The NSUARB Public Hearing will be held in Mahone Bay on February 14th and by that time the outcome of the Nova Scotia Power application will be known and the NSUARB will take that into consideration when they make their ruling.

We are aware that what will undoubtedly be a significant increase in the cost of electricity is an additional burden at a time when the cost of living is rising quickly, but it is out of our control. The Mahone Bay Electric Utility does not have shareholders and does not run as a for-profit; therefore there is no margin to buffer or defer costs. If the increased costs are not charged to the user, the only backstop is the taxpayer.

Contact Town Hall and/or look on our website for information on the NSUARB Hearing in Mahone Bay on February 14th.

Special Election 2022 Update

The Town of Mahone Bay 2022 Special Election for the seat of Councillor has concluded with Suzanne Lohnes-Croft being named Councillor-elect.



Out of a total of 916 qualified voters in Mahone Bay, 417 cast a vote in the special election: a 45.5% voter participation rate.

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Suzanne LOHNES-CROFT | 286 |
| Bryan PALFREYMAN | 130 |
| Spoiled ballot | <u>1</u> |
| Total | 417 |

Thank you to Suzanne Lohnes-Croft and Bryan Palfreyman for putting their names forward and being ready to support our community as a local elected official. It is a big job that requires a lot of time and a sincere commitment to the community.

Councillor-elect Lohnes-Croft will be sworn in at the December 13, 2022 regular Council meeting and then straight to work!

2023 Calendars



Watch for the Town of Mahone Bay 2023 Solid Waste Collection and Council & Committee Meeting schedules in the mail!

Solid Waste Management Bylaw



The Town has adopted an amended Solid Waste Management By-law which excludes hidden plastic contaminants from the organics stream.

This by-law bans items with waxy or plastic coating such as some disposable food containers and plastic compost liners.

New Speed Humps Installed



Speed humps have been installed on Pleasant Street and Fauxburg Road as part of the Town's ongoing work on traffic calming in Mahone Bay.

Two speed humps have been installed on Pleasant Street: one between Fairmont and Spruce Street and one between Spruce Street and Fauxburg Road. These speed humps are a new design which the Town is trying based on feedback from the Fire Department; this is why they look different than the speed humps previously installed on Clairmont Street.

Traffic News

Speed limits in Mahone Bay have been reduced to 40km/h, with the exception of Main Street and Edgewater

Street, which are classified as arterial/collector roads by the Province and therefore have an established speed limit of 50 km/h . Please note that school zone speed restrictions remain in effect on Clearway Street when students are present.



Public Input Session



Now that the in-person gallery is open to the public again, the Public Input Session is also in-person. The 15 minutes prior to the start of regular Council meetings is an opportunity to share your opinions with Council.

Upcoming Dates

Dec 13 - Council Meeting
Dec 14 - HAC Meeting
Dec 15 - Asset Management Committee
Dec 16 - Office Closing at Noon (staff function)
Dec 26 - Jan 3 - Office Closed
Jan 9 - Natural Christmas tree collection
Jan 10 - First Council meeting of 2023

