

African Heritage Month

On February 1st Mahone Bay's newest Councillor, Suzanne Lohnes-Croft joined Mayor David Devenne in raising the African Nova Scotia Flag to commemorate the first day of African Heritage Month. The 2023 African Heritage Month theme, Seas of Struggle - African Peoples from Shore to Shore, recognizes the resiliency, strength and determination of people of African descent from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia, with the Atlantic Ocean being the everlasting connection.



Heating Assistance Rebate



The Province of Nova Scotia has just announced an expansion of their Heating Assistance Rebate Program.

Until March 31, 2023, households with an income of \$85,000 or less that pay for their own heat can apply for a one time \$1,000 rebate from the province. To learn more about this program visit, <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-heating-assistance-rebate-heating-assistance-rebate-program>

Plow it Forward

A neighbour may need your help and your act of kindness could save a life. Volunteer to shovel as an individual, family, or friend.

Knock on your neighbour's door and spread some care and compassion in your community.



Nova Scotia Heritage Day

NS Heritage Day will take place February 20th.

This year Elder Rita (Bernard) Joe, a member of the We'koqma'q Mi'kmaq Community and published author will be honoured.



Over her lifetime Rita Joe earned many accolades and honours as a writer, from far and wide. Unofficially, she is often called the "poet laureate" of the Mi'kmaq people. To learn more about Rita Joe and Nova Scotia Heritage day visit, <https://heritageday.novascotia.ca/>



Thank you to those who came to hear Bahati Ernestine speak at the Mahone Bay Centre on February 2nd. Ms. Ernestine spoke about her experiences moving to Nova Scotia as an international health care worker with MacLeod Group at their New Glasgow facility.

Ms. Ernestine shared her story in advance of the arrival of international health care workers who will come to work at the new Long Term Care Facility in Mahone Bay.

Please watch for more such events to learn about how we can best welcome our newest neighbours and help make Mahone Bay feel like home. For more information contact tina.hennigar@macleodgroup.ca.

Message from the Mayor

February is African Heritage month in Nova Scotia. This morning in Mahone Bay we raised the African Heritage flag once more in recognition of the contribution of persons of African descent in building our province and forging our culture.

The 2023 African Heritage Month theme, Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore, recognizes the resiliency, strength, and determination of people of African descent from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia -- with the Atlantic Ocean being the everlasting connection.

This year's theme highlights the role the sea has played in the long-standing history of people of African descent in the development of Canada and Nova Scotia. This year's theme also aligns with the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness and recognize their full and equal participation in society. Nova Scotia has more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back more than 400 years. African Heritage Month provides another opportunity to celebrate and promote the culture, legacy, achievements and contributions of people of African descent in Nova Scotia – past and present. We are stronger together. Be sure to visit the provincial website: www.ansanovascotia.ca for more information. For enhanced coverage on African Heritage Month, visit <http://www.ahm.bccnswb.com/wp/home>.



Access to Meters



Please ensure that your power and water meters are unobstructed so that staff have safe access to read and/or maintain your meter.

When removing snow from your driveways and walkways this winter, please remember to not pile snow in front of your meters. Off-leash dogs can also impede staff's ability to safely access your meter.

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.

Dogs on Leash



Are you ready for a nice winter walk with your pooch? Do you have a leash? Are you prepared to stoop and scoop? Leashes and cleaning up behind pets are the law in Mahone Bay.

Battery Recycling

Did you know that you can bring your spent batteries to Town Hall for recycling? Bring us your rechargeable and single-use batteries (weighing 5kg or less each). Wet-cell, damaged, or defective batteries will not be accepted.



Bandstand Survey

Lots of improvements have been made to the Michael O'Connor Memorial Bandstand property but we're wondering what other ideas might be out there.



Do you enjoy attending events at Mahone Bay's bandstand and want to have a say in future plans for improvements? Visit the notices page of the Town's website, www.townofmahonebay.ca to find the link to complete a survey and share your thoughts and opinions.



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.

Seniors Care Grant

The Seniors Care Grant helps low-income seniors with the cost of household services (like lawn care, snow removal, grocery delivery, transportation, small home repairs and phone service) and healthcare services (like physiotherapy and mental health support). Grants are up to \$500 for each household. You can also apply for a one-time Home Heating Grant of \$250. Deadline to apply is March 31, 2023.



Visit www.novascotia.ca to apply or for more information. You can also pick up an application at Town Hall.

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 needs, making us subject to the market.

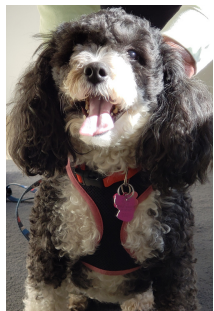
In the time since the Town made our application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB), the Province has stepped in with amendments to the Public Utilities Act which limit the increases that Nova Scotia Power is able to pursue.

To be frank, we don't know what this will do to the real cost to us to purchase power. The implications of the recent NSUARB decision on Nova Scotia Power's General Rate Application for our utility's customer rates are yet to be determined. The NSUARB Public Hearing will be held in Mahone Bay on February 14th, the NSUARB will take their decision in regard to Nova Scotia Power's rates into consideration when ruling on our utility's customer rates.

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 or look on our website for info on the NSUARB Hearing in Mahone Bay on February 14th.

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.

Invitation to Serve

We still have openings
for volunteers on the
following committees:

Asset Management
Committee; Audit &
Finance Committee;

Climate & Environment Committee;
Heritage Advisory Committee; Planning &
Advisory Committee; and the Community
Logo Development Steering Team.

Learn more about these committees and
how to apply on the Committee page of the
Town's website www.townofmahonebay.ca/committees

Grants to Organizations



Mahone Bay Town Council will
soon begin their annual budget
deliberations. Part of these
discussions will include a review

of applications for Grants under the Town's
Grants to Organizations Policy.

The deadline to submit an application is March
31st. To learn more about this policy visit the
Finance page of the Town website.

View from a Plow



Please remember that snow removal
equipment is very large and needs lots of
space to maneuver. In most places, plows do
not have room to drive around a parked
vehicle. It is also important to remember that
visibility from the driver's seat of the plow is
very different than that of a personal vehicle.

Winter Parking



Please remember that
vehicles that obstruct snow
clearing and/or winter road
maintenance are in violation
of the Motor Vehicle Act
section 139 and are subject to being ticketed
and/or towed at the expense of the owner.

Public Input Session



The Public Input Session is a 15
minute session ahead of regular
Council meetings.

It's an opportunity for you to share your
opinions with Council.

Upcoming Dates

Feb 1 - Climate & Environment
Committee Meeting

Feb 7 - Council Meeting

Feb 8 - HAC Meeting

Feb 13 - Watershed Committee Meeting

Feb 16 - Asset Management Committee
Meeting

Feb 16 - Audit & Finance Committee Meeting

Feb 20 - Office Closed (Heritage Day)

Feb 23 - Council Meeting

Feb 27 - Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting

