

## Winter Parking



When the snow flies it's important to remember to make sure that your vehicle is not getting in the way of snow removal.

Vehicles that block snow removal take time to have removed which slows down our Public Works crew. Vehicles that are in the way can be ticketed and/or towed at your expense.

## Seniors Care Grant

The Seniors Care Grant helps low-income seniors with the cost of household services (like snow removal, grocery delivery, lawn care and small home repairs). Grants are up to \$500 for each household. Applications are accepted until May 31, 2022.



Visit [www.novascotia.ca](http://www.novascotia.ca) to apply or for more information. You can also pick up an application at Town Hall.

## Snow Removal Etiquette

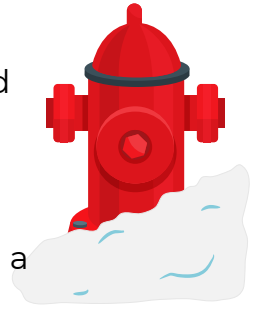
When removing snow from your driveways and walkways, please remember to not shovel snow on top of catch basins (the grates that collect storm water on the edges of the roads) or into the street.

It's important to keep catch basins clear of snow so that snow melt can be collected and redirected away from streets and properties.



## Adopt a Hydrant

During and after a winter storm, Town crews are hard at work clearing roads and sidewalks. If you are physically able to do so, clearing snow from around a nearby fire hydrant is a big help to the community.



Our fire hydrants have been fitted with yellow markers to make them easier to find. Every fire hydrant cleared is one less that the public works crew have to spend time clearing which can significantly decrease clean up time.

## Compost Bin Liners

While compostable bags and biodegradable bags may be advertised as fully compostable, they are not. They get tangled up in equipment and contaminate curing compost piles. This adds staff time and expense at our solid waste site.

Please consider using brown paper bags instead of "compostable" bags.

*Bags tangled in grinder*



*Compostable bags visible in curing compost pile*

## Message From the Mayor

Since March of 2020 we have been coping with a series of closures, shutdowns, cancelled school classes and many workplaces closed. Even though many operations were impacted by COVID, the staff of Town Hall continued to provide the services needed by our citizens.

Assisted by our IT team, staff packed everything up in March 2020 and headed for home to maintain a presence to continue providing necessary services. There was always a staffer to answer a call from a citizen and staff adjusted to the changes wrought by COVID.

Public Works staff continued to work outside, albeit with masks and while maintaining 6 foot distancing. Regardless of the season, staff met the operational requirements expected by the citizens of the town and with a minimum of time lost due to COVID.

The Volunteer Fire Department continued on duty. Building and fire inspection services continued when required by citizens. The water department kept the pipes and water treatment systems operating. The electric utility continued to maintain the electric service without interruption... right up until the mid-January storm.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the efforts of the members of council who continued to complete all regular meeting commitments and also many special meetings to keep the wheels of the town turning. Your town staff and council are committed to providing the services you require, regardless of the circumstances. They do appreciate your support (and perhaps a word of thanks). Thank you!

## Climate & Environment Committee

A new committee has been added to the Town of Mahone Bay's roster, the Climate & Environment Advisory Committee.

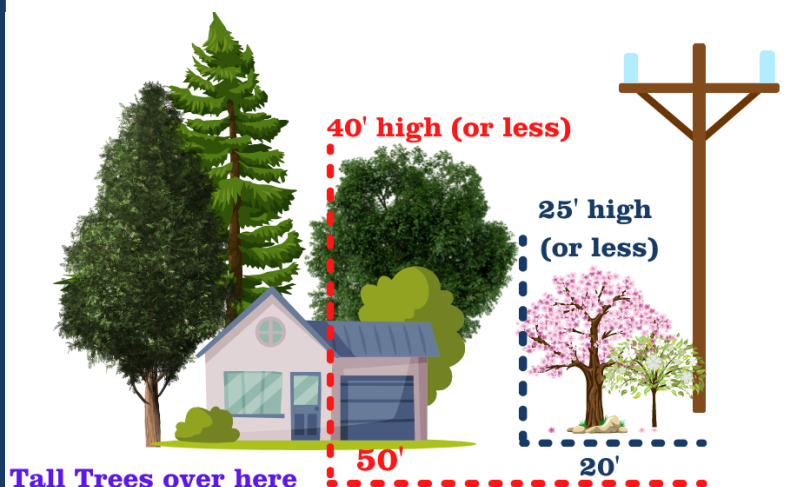


The committee will meet quarterly to provide leadership and guidance on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and environmental stewardship initiatives. The committee provides feedback and engages in community outreach on issues and projects related to environmental sustainability within the Town.

The committee will consist of two members of Council, the Town's Climate and Energy Program Manager, the Town's CAO and up to five public members as appointed by council. This may include residents of Mahone Bay, members of communities abutting the Town, or members of academic or non-profit organizations with an environmental mandate. To learn more about the committee or to apply to join, visit the Town's website, [www.townofmahonebay.ca](http://www.townofmahonebay.ca)

## Planting and Utility Lines

Are you dreaming of your spring gardening? Keep in mind what you choose to plant near power lines as utility crews will need to trim to keep the power lines clear.



# **Municipal Boundary Review**



The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) is required by the Municipal Government Act to conduct reviews of the number and boundaries of municipal polling districts and the number of councillors every eight years. Council will have to make a submission to the NSUARB, stating what Council composition should look like in the future, specifically:

## **Should there be polling districts?**

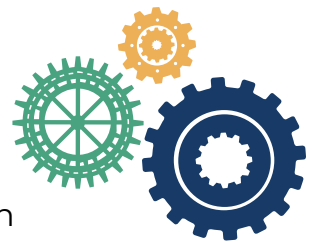
In the Town of Mahone Bay, everybody has the option to vote for any of the names on the ballot - this is what it means when local government representatives are elected "at large". The question is whether elections in Mahone Bay should continue to function this way or should people only be able to vote for specific people based on the area in which they live - this is what it means to vote based on a "polling district".

## **Should Mahone Bay Town Council be made up of four Councillors + a mayor OR six Councillors + a mayor?**

The decision here is about what is the best number of people to represent the electors of Mahone Bay? What are the deciding factors for this recommendation? Generally this is based on representation (who is sitting around the Council table? is this a good representation of the community?), workload (what do Councillors do? are there enough people to share the load?), costs (members of Council receive an honorarium, and there are expenses incurred for training, travel, etc), and how do the numbers work if there is a split decision. What do you think about this? Are there other factors that go into your decision?

## **How the process will work**

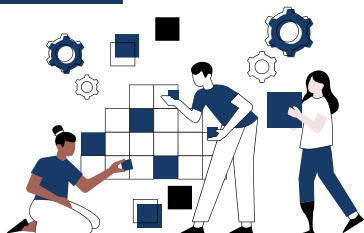
- Look for the special new page on our website about the job that a Councillor does and who does what on the current Council
- A notice will be sent to all residents via Canada Post with information about this process and how to share your thoughts with Council
- A survey will be developed to prompt comments
- A public discussion will be held so that members of the community can participate in a discussion about this issue (we are really hoping that we will be able to hold this meeting in-person - public health guidelines permitting)
- The Council will make their submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board
- The Utility and Review Board will hold an independent Public Hearing in Mahone Bay before they make their decision
- The decision of the NSUARB will determine the make-up of Council at the next municipal election



**Watch for more information about the process,  
the survey, and the public meeting.**

## Strategic Plan Review

Mahone Bay Town Council is preparing for the first annual review of their 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.



### **We want to hear from you!**

Town Council wants to know what you think about the Strategic Plan and the progress that has been made in the first 8 months.



Go to our website and look for the button on the home page with the above graphic - you will find the Strategic Plan and the progress report for the first eight months.



Complete the online survey to share how you feel about the Strategic Plan and the progress made so far:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z2BLMYX>

**Survey extended until March 15th**



Send us your comments by email at [clerk@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:clerk@townofmahonebay.ca), by mail to PO Box 530 Mahone Bay, NS B0J 2E0, or drop of your comments at 493 Main Street.

There will be a Hearing for members of the community to submit their comments on March 24th at 6:30pm. You can submit comments to the hearing or find out how to speak at the hearing by contacting staff at 902-624-8327 or [clerk@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:clerk@townofmahonebay.ca)



If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Town staff at 902-624-8327, [clerk@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:clerk@townofmahonebay.ca), or stop by 493 Main Street.



Have you registered for CodeRED, the Town of Mahone Bay's mass notification system?

This 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.

### Dog Tags

Meet Finn, the Town of Mahone Bay's 2022 dog tag model.



Residents of Mahone Bay can register their pooch for FREE. It's so easy to do, just stop in or call Town Hall or send us an email with your name, address and phone number and your pup's name, breed, colour, and gender, we will mail your tag free of charge.

### Public Input Sessions



As part of the Town's Council Policy, 15 minutes have been added ahead of each council meeting. If you have a question or concern that you would like to voice to Council,

this is an excellent opportunity to do so. The link to the session is available 3 business days prior to the meeting, it can be found on the Town's Facebook page and website.

### Upcoming Dates



March 8 - Council Meeting  
March 9 - Heritage Advisory Committee  
March 15 - Strategic Plan Survey Closes  
March 17 - Asset Management Committee  
March 18 - Cemetery Committee  
March 24 - Strategic Plan Hearing  
March 24 - Council Meeting  
March 28 - Policy & Strategy Committee