



## Happy Earth Day!

Each year, Earth Day offers a chance to reflect on the natural beauty that surrounds us in Mahone Bay from our iconic waterfront and islands to the forests and trails that shape our community. We are truly fortunate to call this place home. Earth Day is both a celebration and a reminder. The environmental challenges we face call for careful action and shared responsibility, and here in Mahone Bay, we continue to show that small communities can lead by example, building a more sustainable and resilient future together.

I am always inspired by the care our residents show for our environment. I think of early morning walks when I would see Ray Rhuland quietly picking up litter downtown, simply doing his part to keep Mahone Bay beautiful. Whether it's protecting our shoreline, reducing waste, supporting local initiatives, or taking time to appreciate nature, your actions matter.

I would also like to recognize the dedicated volunteers on the Town's Standing Committees that address the town's environmental stewardship. Their work helps guide decisions around our natural assets, infrastructure, climate action, and community planning. These committees have formed a Joint Committee and now gather several times a year to collaborate, share ideas, learn and work with the Clean Foundation. Here are a few of the Town's "green" initiatives:

- **Renewable Energy Partnership:** Mahone Bay is part of the Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA), operating a wind farm that supplies clean energy locally. The Town's electricity mix exceeds 75% renewable, including wind, solar, and Nova Scotia Power's renewable supply. This reduces emissions and generates surplus revenue for local projects, with a goal of reaching 100% renewable energy.
- **Active Transportation & Safer Streets:** Mahone Bay is making walking and cycling easier and safer. The Edgewater multi-use trail provides an accessible route that supports active transportation and reduces car use. Through the Blue Route Hubs Bikeway Project with Bicycle Nova Scotia, cycling infrastructure is expanding for all ages. Traffic calming, including speed humps on Fauxburg Road and Kinburn, improves safety where sidewalks are limited.
- **Urban Forest & Tree Canopy Initiative:** Through Growing Canada's Community Canopies, Mahone Bay is strengthening its rural-style urban forest. Trees are treated as natural assets that support environmental health and well-being. Improved care reduces runoff and erosion, lowers carbon levels, and provides energy savings, while enhancing tourism, local food sources, and quality of life.

You're warmly invited to join me for an Earth Day Walk on Wednesday, April 22 at 2 p.m. at the Community Orchard (next to the Community Sports Field behind the Mahone Bay Centre). Dress for the weather. If it rains, we'll try Thursday, April 23. Check the Town's Facebook page or call 902-624-8327 for updates. Thank you for your ongoing care and stewardship of this special place.

Mayor Suzanne Lohnes-Croft

## Hi Neighbour Event

Saturday, May 23, 5:00 p.m.  
Mark your calendars for a wonderful community potluck bringing together new and longtime residents of Mahone Bay at the Mahone Bay Centre as part of the Centre's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.



## Housing Progress Report

Our Town continues to make positive progress on its Housing Initiative, with key steps moving forward. At the corner of Hawthorn and Kinburn, the Town has partnered with the Mahone Bay Community Land Cooperative to advance plans for new housing. Utilizing Housing Accelerator Funding, GEMTEC will complete soil testing to ensure the site is suitable for development. This work supports the Cooperative's goal of increasing non-market and co-operative housing options in our community.

We also received insights from the Lunenburg County Housing Market Study, prepared by Turner Drake & Partners and funded by the municipalities in the County including the Town. The study confirmed that Mahone Bay has a 0% rental vacancy rate, highlighting the urgent need for more housing. It also showed that most of the county lacks purpose-built rental buildings, meaning residents rely on limited secondary options. To address these challenges, the Town is in the development phase on a Gentle Density Housing Program. This program will support "missing-middle" housing, such as duplexes, townhouses, and secondary suites. These housing types fit within existing neighborhoods while increasing availability.

Additionally, the Town has waived building and development permit fees for affordable housing projects until 2029, making it easier to build needed homes.

## Council Café

The next Council Café is on Thursday April 9 from 11 a.m. - 12 noon. April is all about shaping the Town's upcoming annual budget. Council will be hard at work reviewing numbers, asking tough questions, and carefully considering every option to ensure responsible and accountable decisions for our community.



Curious about how it all works? Wondering about tax impacts, town operations versus the allocation of funds for infrastructure, how we manage reserves and debt? Join us at the next Council Café. It's a relaxed, welcoming space to learn more about the budget process and ask your questions about what happens at the table during budget season.

## Communities In Bloom

It was two years ago that a group of passionate local volunteers came together to form the Communities in Bloom (CiB) team.



Since then, the group has made incredible progress in enhancing the beauty and spirit of our town. In CiB 2024, our community earned an impressive four out of five blooms, a testament to the dedication, creativity, and pride of our residents.

Mahone Bay will be participating in the Communities in Bloom 2026 Atlantic Edition in the Friends-Evaluated category. It's an exciting opportunity to build on what we've learned and grow even stronger together.

Photo: This meeting last year brought together amazing community partners including Mahone Bay's Signature Festivals, Tourism & Chamber of Commerce, Talking Trees, and the Garden Club to reflect on our inaugural year and explore how we can work together to further beautify our town.

## New Customer Portal

The Town is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of a new customer portal designed to make managing your account easier and more efficient. This new service will allow customers to conveniently access tax, water and electrical utility bills online anytime, from anywhere.

Keep an eye on your upcoming bills and Town communication channels for important information on how to sign up and start using the portal. Please note: You will still be able to pay your bill in person at Town Hall.

We look forward to bringing you this improved, streamlined service!

## New Community Alert System



The Town will soon be inviting residents to sign up for our new community alert system called Alertable, a Canadian-made service by Public Emergency Alerting Services Inc. (PEASI).

It is trusted by over 1,300 municipalities, Indigenous communities, and businesses across Canada, with all data stored securely in Canada. This system delivers emergency alerts and important notifications to keep you informed about urgent situations and everyday incidents in our community. In Town, it is primarily used to update on service disruptions like power outages, annual water main flushing, etc. Alertable is replacing the CodeRED service after many years of use by Town.

**SIGN UP TODAY**

Have you signed up for the electronic version of Town Hall News? Get every edition emailed to you. Just send a subscription request to [clerk@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:clerk@townofmahonebay.ca).

Join our community engagement platform at [www.getonboardmahonebay.ca](http://www.getonboardmahonebay.ca) to stay updated and share your input on key projects, bylaws, and policies shaping our Town.

## April 22 is Earth Day

This year's theme for Earth Day in Canada is conscious consumption, which means using less, choosing better, and helping the planet while improving our own lives. It's all about living in a simpler, more inclusive, and sustainable way.

With growing pressure on the environment, small changes can make a big difference. Conscious consumption is something everyone can do. It includes rethinking how we produce, buy, travel, and use energy and technology.

For individuals, organizations, and classrooms, Earth Day Canada offers Workshops for Action with easy tips and resources to help you reduce your impact every day. Topics include eating sustainably, cutting food waste, saving money, recycling, composting, and more. Info at: <https://earthday.ca/every-day/programs/earth-day-workshops/>

Here are some easy actions people are already taking as part of the conscious consumption challenge:



- Turn off lights and devices when not in use
- Reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost
- Shop local and support farmers' markets
- Conserve water and collect rainwater
- Walk, bike, or carpool when possible
- Use eco-friendly cleaning products
- Repair, swap, or thrift clothes
- Grow your own food, plant native species
- Join/host a community litter pick-up event

Pop into Town Hall for litter pick-up packages of bags, gloves, and stickers marking garbage as "unsorted" for collection with your sorted waste.

We encourage everyone to mark Earth Day in a simple, meaningful way. Our staff are taking on the challenge this April, will you join us?

## Edgewater Project Update

Safety posts are now going in along the Edgewater coastline, and we know there have been questions about how the trail will look and feel once everything is finished. We completely understand big projects like this can look a little different while they're still under construction.

Many coastal trails across Canada include safety features like railings or mid-rails, especially in steep or exposed areas, following national standards for safety and accessibility. Here, posts are set at the lowest allowable height (1.37 m / 4.5 ft).

Once the trail surface is complete, the top rail will sit under four feet, reducing visual impact. Between Kedy's Landing and the area across

from The Teazer, the shoreline will include both post-and-rope and post-and-wood rail sections. Rope will border planted and

living shoreline areas, while wood rails are required along exposed rock and steeper drops for safety.



Some earlier conceptual images showed rope along the entire coastal side, and we apologize if that created confusion. The current safety design has been part of the engineering plans since 2024.

The trail is still under construction. Crews are preparing the gravel base before paving, followed by spring landscaping that will significantly enhance the space. Natural plantings will soften the shoreline, but they will need time to establish.

We're excited to see Edgewater take its final shape and we're grateful for the community's understanding as the last pieces come together.

## Committee Opportunities

The Town of Mahone Bay is inviting residents to apply to serve on some of the Town's Committees and Boards for the 2025-2026 term. We're looking for applicants with good financial knowledge to fill the following vacancies:

Asset Management Committee - 1 vacancy

Audit Committee - 3 vacancies\*

Finance Committee - 2 vacancies\*

Planning Advisory Committee - 1 vacancy

\*One person MUST serve on both the Audit and Finance committees.



Serving on a committee is a great way to have a voice in local decisions; learn more about Town operations;

connect with others; and make a real difference.

Interested? The application form and information is available on the website at: <https://www.townofmahonebay.ca/committees> We hope to see you at the table at Town Hall soon!

## Calendar Reminders

- April 2 - Volunteer Recognition Program nominations deadline
- April 19 - NS Quality of Life Survey closes
- April 30 - Order of Nova Scotia nominations deadline

## Upcoming Dates

April 3/6 – Easter Office Closure

April 8 – Heritage Advisory Committee

April 9 - Council Café (11 am)

April 10 – Budget Meeting

April 14 – Council Meeting (9 am)

April 16 – Asset Management Committee

April 17 – Budget Meeting

April 24 – Budget Meeting

April 27 – Policy & Strategy Committee

April 30 – Police Advisory Board

April 30 – Council Meeting (7 pm)