



## Win-win!



For the fourth year in a row, Mahone Bay's trees have been delivered to P&P Pastures

Homestead outside of Lunenburg.

The goats love to snack on the greenery, trees are leaned up against pasture fences as windbreak for the ponies and horses and trees with large enough trunks are even used to make fence posts.

Sending our greenery to a local farm saves the Town tipping fees at the waste site AND it recycles our greenery locally. It's win-win!

## African Heritage Month



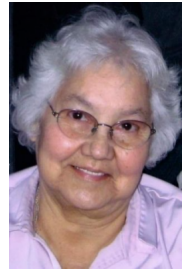
February is African Heritage Month. This year's theme is "Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance."

The theme celebrates the enduring legacy of Black Nova Scotians, paying tribute to the community's resilience, achievements, and impact throughout history.

Nova Scotia is home to 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities, with a rich and complex history that spans more than 200 years. African Heritage Month is a time to honor this heritage and celebrate the culture, achievements, and contributions of Black Nova Scotians—both past and present. It is a moment to recognize the strength of our shared legacy and the brilliance that continues to inspire future generations.

To learn more visit, [ansa.novascotia.ca/african-heritage-month](https://ansa.novascotia.ca/african-heritage-month)

## NS Heritage Day



February 17th is Nova Scotia Heritage Day. This day is an annual reminder of our storied past and an opportunity to honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province's unique heritage.

This year's honouree is Nora Bernard. As a strong Mi'kmaq activist for her community of Millbrook First Nation and First Nations across the country, Nora Bernard was instrumental in ensuring justice, recognition and compensation for the Survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. As a survivor of the residential school system herself, Ms. Bernard founded and became president of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association in 1987, and launched a class-action lawsuit on its behalf. The action taken by Ms. Bernard inspired residential school survivors across the country to file suits, and after the suits amalgamated, it became the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history, representing about 79,000 survivors. For 21 years, Ms. Bernard worked tirelessly to raise awareness and seek justice for Residential School Survivors.

To learn more about Nova Scotia Heritage Day and this year's honouree as well as the honourees of past years, please visit [heritageday.novascotia.ca](https://heritageday.novascotia.ca)

Have you signed up for the electronic version of the Mayor's Newsletter? Signing up is easy, just scroll to the bottom of the homepage at [townofmahonebay.ca](https://townofmahonebay.ca)



## Message from the Mayor

Well, we made it through January, and already I have noticed that the days are getting longer, and on a sunny day, it is still light at 5 pm! It was heartwarming to begin 2025 with such a good turnout at the New Years Levee. An abundance of good cheer, thanks to the efforts of the many volunteers from the Mahone Bay Legion Branch 49, with support from the Mahone Bay District Fire Department and the Town of Mahone Bay.

Town Hall staff and Council have been busy with orientations, budgeting and strategic planning. The Nominating Committee has been working on the composition of our numerous Advisory Committees, made more challenging as we had a terrific number of applicants. All this on top of their regular duties including the work prepping for Committees and Council meetings.

Speaking of Council meetings, did you notice the first Council meeting of the month is still on the second Tuesday, but at 9:00am? We hope that this change will allow for more diverse engagement and accessibility, plus fewer yawns around the table. We were pleased to see several town early birds at our very first morning Council meeting. The meeting on the last Thursday of the month remains at 7pm. Our own Strategic Planning began with an initial meeting on January 31, to map out the planning process. Our deeper dive will take place in February and March. Thank you to all who filled out the survey that will help guide the Plan for the next four years.

I have been working in a makeshift office for the past couple of months and I am enjoying the vibe at Town Hall. Getting to know the staff better and understanding the depth of their workload and skill has been both a pleasure and learning experience. I am grateful for the patience and assistance they provide for myself and my Council colleagues daily.

Connecting and developing respectful relationships in the workplace is crucial for creating healthy and safe working environments. It is also a responsibility for those in leadership positions to create and adhere to strong policies and expectations, not only for themselves, but for staff, volunteers and residents. We all have a key role in providing the best possible working environments.

Wishing you all a Happy Valentine's Day,  
Mayor Suzanne



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## Would you Like to Connect with Council?

Call Town Hall: 902-624-8327 and leave a message for a member of Council to call back. You can also request to set up a meeting with any member of Council. Or, you can email: [inquiries@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:inquiries@townofmahonebay.ca) with your request. Each Councillor has an individual email address as well, visit the Meet Council page of the Town's website for individual addresses.

Write a letter to Council to appear on an agenda: PO Box 530, Mahone Bay, NS B0J 2E0, or email it to [clerk@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:clerk@townofmahonebay.ca)

Come to a Council meeting and share your ideas or concerns during the Public Engagement section or you can arrange to make a presentation to Council by contacting Kelly Munroe, Town Clerk: [clerk@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:clerk@townofmahonebay.ca) [902-624-8327](tel:902-624-8327)

## Comfort Centre Volunteers

We are seeking volunteers to be the frontline staff for the Comfort Centre at the Mahone Bay and District Fire Department, 41 Hawthorn Road.



A Comfort Centre is a place where people can go for warming, cooling, electricity, washrooms and other amenities during an emergency situation. The Town must develop a roster of volunteers who would be willing to set up and operate the Comfort Centre if needed.

To read the Town of Mahone Bay Comfort Centre Operating Procedures and fill out the volunteer application, visit the Emergency Services page on the Town's website.

Please direct any questions to Eric Levy, Deputy CAO by calling Town Hall or emailing [eric.levy@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:eric.levy@townofmahonebay.ca)

## Home Heating Rebate



The Province of Nova Scotia offers a rebate through their Heating Assistance Rebate Program to help low-income Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating. For more information visit, <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-heatingassistance-rebate-heating-assistancerebate-program>

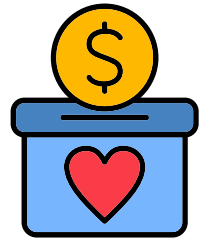
## Seniors Care Grant

This grant helps low-income seniors with the cost of household services like lawn care, snow removal, grocery delivery, transportation and small home repairs. Seniors can also apply for help with costs associated with health care services like physiotherapy and mental health support. Grants are \$750 per household. If you qualify, you can apply until March 31, 2024. To learn more visit [novascotia.ca](http://novascotia.ca)



## 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. To learn more about this policy visit the Bylaws + Policies page of the Town website. Deadline to apply is March 31st.



## Be the Peace Institute



Did you know that there is a local, Mahone Bay based organization that's focus is ending gender-based violence in Nova Scotia?

Be the Peace Institute engages with partners and colleagues on projects and initiatives to prevent, research, advocate, respond to or address the impacts of gender-based violence, and promote needed change.

If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) visit [bethepeace.ca](http://bethepeace.ca) for a list of resources. The website is also a place to educate yourself on IPV and to learn how you can help.

## Congrats Chief Ekins!



Congratulations to Chief Adam Ekins! Chief Ekins was once again elected as Chief of the Mahone Bay & District Fire Department.

## Upcoming Dates

Feb 11 - Council Meeting (9am)  
Feb 12 - Heritage Advisory Committee  
Feb 17 - Office Closed (NS Heritage Day)  
Feb 20 - Audit & Finance Committee  
Feb 24 - Policy & Strategy Committee  
Feb 27 - Council Meeting (7pm)

## Property Assessments



2025 Property Assessment Notices have been mailed to every property owner in Mahone Bay from Property Valuation Services

Corporation (PVSC). For more information about property assessment in Nova Scotia visit [pvsc.ca](http://pvsc.ca) or call 1-800-380-7775.

## 2025 Dog Tags

Sweet Sal is Mahone Bay's 2025 dog tag model. Sal wants to let you know that we now have our 2025 dog tags available at Town Hall.



It is mandatory in Mahone Bay to register your dog each year. Registering your dog annually ensures that we have the most up-to-date information in case we ever need to get your pooch back home.

Registering is quick and easy and FREE! You can stop by Town Hall and pick up your tag(s) in person, or give us a call or send an email and we can arrange to mail your tag(s).

## Off Highway Vehicles



A reminder that it is illegal to drive off highway vehicles on any street within the Town of Mahone Bay limits.

Call the RCMP to report off highway vehicles observed on Town streets, 902-634-8674.

## Winter Parking



Winter weather is here and we want to remind you that vehicles that obstruct snow clearing and/or winter road

and parking lot maintenance are in violation of the Motor Vehicle Act and are subject to being ticketed or towed at the owner's expense.



## Are you locked up and secure for the night?

Join the #9PMRoutine today and take an active role in crime prevention in your neighbourhood and community.

The #9PMRoutine is a campaign used by police agencies across North America to remind citizens to protect themselves and their property.

What do I need to do?

There are simple steps you can take to help prevent crime in your neighbourhood.

Every night at 9pm:

- Remove valuables from your vehicle and ensure it's locked and windows are closed.
- Close all garage windows and lock any garage doors, especially those leading into your house
- Keep your vehicle registration and insurance documents secure. The documents can be used to commit other crimes
- Check and lock all house doors and shut all windows
- Turn on an exterior light
- Close and lock your fence gate
- Lock your shed
- Put away bikes and toys in your yard
- Park in the garage instead of the street, if possible.