

An aerial photograph of Mahone Bay, showing a harbor with several boats, a marina, and a town nestled among green hills. Overlaid on the image are three large, semi-transparent geometric shapes: a green triangle on the left, a blue triangle in the center, and an orange triangle on the right. In the upper right, there is a small logo consisting of three diamonds in green, blue, and orange.

# *TOWN OF* **Mahone Bay**

**Collaboration and Sharing  
What We've Learned**

**CAO Dylan Heide &  
Mayor David Devenne –  
Town of Mahone Bay**



## **MAHONE BAY, NS**

Area: 3.12 km<sup>2</sup>

Residents: 1,036

Electric Customers: 751

Water Customers: 490

## **INTRODUCTION**

This presentation will focus on the Town of Mahone Bay's asset management program, the experience of our Asset Management Committee – composed of staff, council members and members of the public – and on our efforts to communicate with residents concerning Town assets.

# Mahone Bay's AM Timeline



## INITIAL DATA COLLECTION

2017-2018

NS AM Pilot Project (linear assets), Bayview Cemetery

## POLICY & GOVERNANCE

2019

2018-21 Strategic Plan, AIM Cohort Participation, AM Policy, AM Committee

## SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

2020

MAMP funded non-linear assets, GHG data collection, Park Cemetery

## CURRENT

2020-21

Sharing What We've Learned – Public education

## FUTURE

2021+

Improvement Plan, Long-term Capital Planning, Etc.





# COLLABORATION

Bringing residents into our AM program

## Our Asset Management Committee

The overall purpose of the Asset Management Committee as determined by Council is to provide leadership and engagement activities to ensure public assets are managed in a proactive and sustainable manner for current and future generations.

Asset Management Committee membership:

- Two members of the Town Council;
- The CAO (non-voting);
- The Manager of Finance (non-voting); and,
- Up to five public members as appointed by Council.

From the Committee's first meeting in 2019 we have applied AIM Network methods to establish a common understanding of desired levels of service, identify goals and risks, and to develop appropriate asset management strategies.

# WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



## LESSONS

- Developing a common understanding of our assets and our current AM practice is essential.
- Education is the first step towards establishing a common ground.
- You'll never have all the information but the information you do have needs to be accessible.
- Everyone has an opinion, embrace it.

## SURPRISES

- "Tell it like it is" - don't avoid difficult realities.
- Centennial AM: Asset Management isn't new.
  - Traditions of Cost Sharing
  - Recognition of Natural Assets
  - Recreational Partnerships
  - Power of Community



# Getting water from Oakland Lake to your home!



## THE PRISTINE OAKLAND LAKE WATERSHED

We draw 500m<sup>3</sup> of water per day. Strict land use policies protect the lake and our source waters.



## STATE-OF-THE-ART WATER TREATMENT

Our plant treats water held in our 2000m<sup>3</sup> reservoir. Chlorination and UV purification means our water passes rigorous daily testing.



## LEGACY LINES

Public Works maintains distribution and transmission lines residents voted for over 70 years ago. Council's working hard to secure funds for needed rehabilitation and upgrades.



## FRESH WATER, ON TAP

New generators keep service steady during power outages. If service is interrupted, CodeRED alerts everyone affected!



## Fresh water, thanks to our pipes, plants, and people!

From the Oakland Lake watershed just outside of town limits, to our state-of-the-art treatment plant, through over 10km of water mains, to our faucets and taps: why buy a bottle when the highest quality water's at hand? Our drinking water infrastructure is something we all built together, and something we can all be proud of! Your utility payments – with support from provincial and federal governments – help keep it that way!



# SHARING

Taking our AM Program to the community

## The Mahone Bay Town Council acknowledges that engagement is a foundation of Asset Management.

Our Asset Management Policy:

s4.5 The Town recognizes the value of asset management planning in improving information for decision-making and commits to implementing asset management processes. The Town commits to the integration of asset management systems and community engagement.

AM engagement begins with education, establishing a common understanding of our assets.





## Public Education

We've teamed up with a local marketing and design company to devise a unique way to get information across to the public, particularly during COVID-19. Working with our AM Committee these designers have developed a series of posters highlighting our various asset classes, to accompany diagrams, fact sheets, maps and other more traditional educational materials.



# ASSET FACT SHEETS

Along with the posters our AM Committee - supported by Town staff – have developed a series of AM fact sheets for each of our asset classes (based on available data).

These fact sheets provide high-level information from our asset inventory, budgets, etc. along with AM goals, identified risks, and items of interest.

## ALSO IN THE WORKS...

- Video asset tour (replacing prior physical tour for municipal awareness – COVID-19 adaptation with accessibility benefits)
- MORE online mapping (Park Cemetery joining Bayview, other public info to follow)

## Electrical Assets



### ELECTRICAL ASSETS AT A GLANCE

Mahone Bay's electrical system includes:

- 471 Utility Poles (\$1,825,125)
- 308 Street Lights (\$4,358,600)
- 124 Transformers (\$3,720,000)

Values are estimated replacement value

### KEY 2020-21 CAPITAL PROJECTS:

- \$5,205,684 for community Solar Garden (on receipt of 73% external funding)
- \$60,000 for installation of six new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations (with \$30,000 in NRCan funding)

### UTILITY SERVICE

The Town of Mahone Bay supplies electricity to approximately 725 customers located within the Town, as well as 26 customers near the Town limit in Mader's Cove.

The Town also partners with the Riverport Electrical Commission, sharing staff and equipment.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Town is part owner of the Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA) which has operated the Ellershouse Windfarm since December 2015, supplying over 40% of our electrical load (exceeding Provincial targets). Plans for a community solar garden are also in the works.

Electricity not generated by own-sources is purchased on the open market to obtain the best value for customers. For 2020 we are purchasing from NB Power, bringing our balance of supply to over 60% renewable sources.

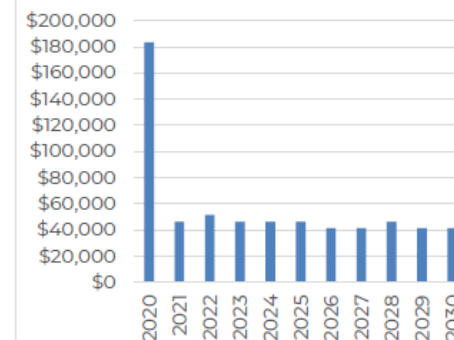
### ASSET MANAGEMENT GOALS

- Provide lowest possible energy costs while reinvesting in the system
- Extend services to support new development
- Increase renewable / own-source energy generation
- Support electrification (home heating, transportation)

### RISKS:

- Import rates / transmission tariffs

### 10-year Capital Investment Plan



Average bi-monthly bills for residential electrical customers in Mahone Bay:

2017	2018	2019	2020
\$250.17	\$266.64	\$271.45	\$277.62

Rates pay for electric utility operating costs and important capital projects!

**Did you know?** The Town's electrical grid is divided into three circuits; Kedy's landing is served separately from NSPI's Oakland grid.



# IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Development of these educational materials and their distribution over the coming months is just the beginning of the public conversation. Despite the unexpected circumstances 2020 has seen increased engagement in Mahone Bay.

The Town Council recently adopted a new Public Engagement Policy that “recognizes the value of public engagement and provides a framework for opportunities for members of the public to be informed of, or involved in, meaningful public engagement regarding decisions that directly affect the community.”

In the municipal election held October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via alternative voting methods we recorded a record 70.3% turnout!

Opportunities for collaborative approaches abound, with exciting projects such as our planned community solar garden.

Specific areas of focus for Mahone Bay’s AM Program in the future include:

- Asset management and climate mitigation plan integration
- Natural assets
- Accessibility

# THANK YOU



[townofmahonebay.ca](http://townofmahonebay.ca)