



**Municipal Climate Change  
Frontrunners:  
Environmental Leadership**

# Introduction to Mahone Bay

**Founded:** 1754

**Incorporated:** 1919

**Population (2021):** 1,064

**Size:** 3.13 km<sup>2</sup>

From the preamble to the 2024 update to the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy, commenting on public input received:

*There is an overwhelming consensus about the importance of the environment in Mahone Bay; it is foundational to the very nature of the town. The community holds the harbour, watercourses, forests, and the trails within the town's boundary in high regard.*



# 2021-25 Strategic Plan

## Environmental Leadership

### 1) Mitigation

Reduce  
Community  
Greenhouse Gas  
Emissions

### 2) Adaptation

Adapt Community  
Infrastructure to  
Climate Change

### 3) Stewardship

Practice  
Stewardship of Our  
Natural Environment

# 1) Reduce Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Community GHG Reduction Action Plan
- Mahone Bay runs on 80%+ Renewable Energy
- All Municipal buildings are now off fossil fuels





## 2) Adapt Community Infrastructure to Climate Change

- Coastal Flooding - Edgewater Street Living Shoreline
- Inland Flooding & Stormwater Management
- Climate risks in Asset Management Planning



# Living Shoreline

- 2013 Climate Change Action Plan
- 2016 Coastal Flooding Report
- 2022 Shoreline Pilot Project
- PROJECT PARTNERS



- PROJECT FUNDERS



# Living Shoreline

## Components of the Living Shoreline



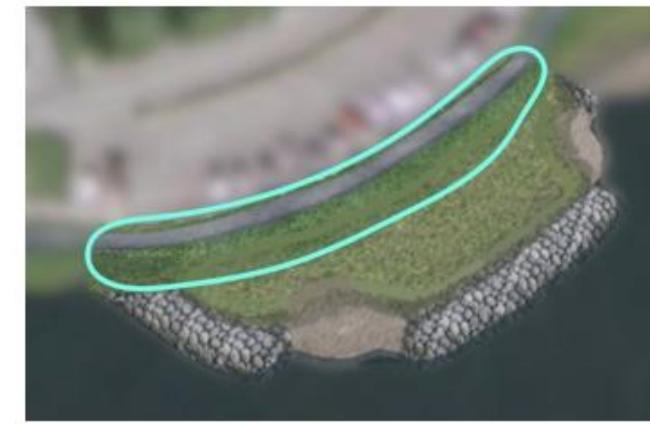
**Rock Sill**



**Tidal Marsh**



**Vegetated Bank**



<https://www.mahonebaylivingshoreline.com/>

# How has Mahone Bay been successful with our shoreline project?

- Climate & Energy Program Manager
  - Forming Partnerships
  - Securing Funds
- 2025: Moving to construction





### 3) Practice Stewardship of Our Natural Environment

- Urban Forest Management
- Watershed Management
- Celebrating our Natural Environment

# Partnerships

- Partnerships for the Living Shoreline and beyond
- Support and capacity building
- Great things happening in our own backyard





# Community Engagement



- Incredible local talent
- Climate & Environment Committee
- 2025-29 Strategic Plan



# Resident Participation

Our residents are participating by:

- Planting and donating trees
- Volunteering with Coastal Action and other organizations
- Forming engaged community groups such as Talking Trees
- Joining Communities in Bloom for the first time last year
- Maintaining and improving naturalized lands for public benefit
- Taking action on stormwater and wildfire mitigation
- Transforming their own properties into contributors to our local ecosystem



# 2021-25 Lessons Learned

Invest in  
capacity

Build and  
maintain  
relationships

Adaptation  
requires a whole  
community  
approach

# Looking Ahead

- Mapping Climate Hazards
  - Inland flooding
  - Wildfires
  - Invasive species
- Integrating Natural Assets into Asset Management
- Engaging residents and private properties in climate adaptation



# THANK YOU



## Mahone Bay

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