

The MOPC Spotlight

E-newsletter



April 2024

Gordie MacKinnon was chosen as the 2024 MOPC Volunteer of the Year. See page 3 for more.



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Funding announced for Salem Project

Outgoing Pictou West MLA Karla MacFarlane had some good news for the residents of Salem, Pictou County on her last day as their representative Friday, April 12.

She was joined at the West River Fire Hall by Premier Tim Houston who announced that the province will be contributing \$1.6 million to extend wastewater to the community of Salem.

The Salem wastewater extension project, which will cost an estimated \$3.2 million, will include the construction of a wastewater collection and pumping system to serve about 30 homes and businesses.

Funding for the project is part of the Municipal Capital Growth Program that was announced in February 2023. The project is expected to be cost-shared with the Municipality of Pictou County. MOPC Warden Robert Parker said the MOPC also hopes to apply for federal funding for the project.

The project is expected to improve the quality of life for current residents and create the opportunity for more growth in the region.

“Today’s investment will ensure the residents and businesses of Salem have access to an upgraded wastewater system so



A large crowd gathered at the West River Fire Hall for the announcement about funding for the Salem Wastewater Project.

they can continue to grow and thrive,” said Premier Houston.

Warden Parker shared similar thoughts with those gathered.

“In a lot of our villages and communities, housing happens when you have the things people are looking for,” Warden Parker said. “You have to have decent water. You have to have sewer that works.”

Warden Parker said a good deal of credit is also due the late Carl McCunn, who right up until his deathbed was actively lobbying for the project.

“Nobody worked harder than Carl to get this done,” Warden Parker said. “For a fellow who knew he was on the way out, he was still very concerned about the sewer in Salem.”

Contact the Municipality of Pictou County

Physical Address

46 Municipal Drive
Pictou, N.S.
B0K 1H0

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 910
Pictou, N.S
B0K 1H0

Call Us

902-485-4311
902-752-1530

MOPC recognizes volunteers



The Municipality of Pictou County received nominations for numerous people from throughout the county who give back to make our community a better place to live. Congratulations to all who were nominated.

Gordie MacKinnon was announced as The Municipality of Pictou County's 2024 Volunteer of the Year during a special ceremony held April 16 at the Pictou County Wellness Centre.

Gordie MacKinnon has been volunteering for close to 60 years in Pictou County.

A lifelong resident of Lismore, MacKinnon has always believed in neighbours helping neighbours.

He started volunteering as a youth by helping neighbours with chores and small tasks in the community. Over time his efforts have expanded to include more formalized roles on boards and organizations.

He has coached sports teams, helped build the Lismore Ball Field and volunteered with events at the former East Pictou Rural High.

Today he is actively involved with the Lismore Parish Council, Lismore Community Centre, Merigomish Fire

Department and the Bailey's Brook and Lismore Cemeteries.

"He works with you and sets a good example to everyone involved to do their best for their community because they will help others in some way 'down the road'" his nominator said.

Other nominees for this year's Volunteer of the Year Award were: Monica Beudin, Joan Clark, Alan Elliott, Candace Ferguson, Lisa Hawkes, Cody and Gillian Joudrie, Erin MacGregor, Alena Martin and Tim Van Veen.

The MOPC also honoured youth volunteers. The Karma Closet Crew at Northumberland Regional High School was recognized for their efforts to address food insecurity. Melanie McDuff was recognized for her contributions to numerous community events.

"Without volunteers, all of our lives would be much more mundane and much less enjoyable," Warden Robert Parker said.

SWITCH MOPC: ASSISTING THE TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY

Removing Barriers



Through the creation of the Switch MOPC Program, the Municipality of Pictou County aims to remove barriers to completing home energy upgrades. These upgrades will not only benefit the homeowner, but our community and the environment.

Switch MOPC Assists The Completion of Retrofits by:

Paying the Contractor: Switch MOPC pays your contractor upfront.

Applying for Rebates: We help you utilize all available rebates.

Offering Step by Step Guidance: From planning to execution, get support every step of the way.



The Municipality of Pictou County actively encourages residents to undertake these upgrades for several reasons:

- **To Benefit Homeowners:** Completing home energy upgrades will have many benefits to homeowners in MOPC.
- **To Stimulate Local Economy:** Home energy upgrades create jobs and boost demand for local energy services.
- **To Achieve Sustainability Goals:** Residential heating and energy is a large portion of MOPC's GHG emissions.

Why Consider Home Energy Upgrades?



- **Increased Energy Efficiency:** Upgrades like heat pumps, solar panels and insulation can significantly reduce energy consumption, reducing your carbon footprint.
- **Lower Utility Costs:** Switch MOPC was designed to have your energy savings exceed your monthly repayments.
- **Reduced Reliance on Oil:** Minimize dependency on fossil fuels, improving energy independence and stability.
- **Enhanced Comfort:** Home energy upgrades can regulate indoor temperatures, creating healthier environments.
- **Increase Property Value:** Modern, energy efficient homes tend to attract higher resale values.

Call Switch MOPC Today to Make The Switch!



(902) 334 - 4227

MOPC Internet Projects Continue to Grow

Fibre construction is ongoing throughout the Municipality of Pictou County now reaching almost 1,500 homes!

Residents who are interested in the service can visit ruralnet.munpict.ca to see if their home qualifies. Plans for fibre internet start at \$34.99.

The MOPC FirstHome wireless network is being continuously upgraded as well to better serve residents, and we are excited to announce our Blue Mountain wireless Tower is scheduled to go live by early May.

If you are a resident of the Blue Mountain area and are interested in our Wireless Internet service, please visit MOPCFirstHome.ca to sign up if you haven't already.

Wireless service packages are \$49.99+tax and offer speeds of 25Mbps download and 5Mbps upload. Seasonal packages are available!

Call 1-833-727-2256 for more information.



The MOPC First Home Team spent some time at the Pictou County Home Show in April sharing information about the wireless and fibre internet projects. From left are Rhiannon McNair, Alex Kampa-Plouffe and Scott Hewey.

How to pay your taxes



You can pay your property tax or water bills online through your bank by following these instructions:

Property Taxes

Go to "Add Payee"

Search "Pictou"

Select "Pictou County Taxes"

Add all 8 digits of your Municipal Account number

Water Utility

Go to "Add Payee"

Search "Pictou"

Select "Pictou County Water"

Add all 8 digits of your Municipal Account number

You can pay your property tax bills by dropping a cheque into the mail. The address is:

The Municipality of Pictou County

P.O. Box 910, Pictou

Nova Scotia, B0K 1H0

Visit our administration building Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to pay your bill in person.

LANDFILL VOUCHERS AVAILABLE MAY 1

Landfill Vouchers from the MOPC are available from May 1st to Nov. 30th.

We are happy to mail them out to you or you can stop by our Administration Office at 46 Municipal Drive in Pictou between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. Monday to Friday.

Call our finance department at 902-485-4311 for more information or email tax@munpict.ca.

Vouchers are given free of charge to people who own homes or cottages in rural Pictou County. Vacant landowners, wood lot owners, etc, do not qualify for such vouchers. Each voucher will cover the tipping fee for up to 250 kg of garbage at the Mount William Transfer Station. They can be used individually or in combination for a maximum total of 1,000 kg



Always Check Before You Burn

From now until October 15, the provincial government will update its burn map at 2 p.m. daily at www.novascotia.ca/burnsafe or you can call for updates at 1-855-564-2876(BURN).



In counties coloured green on the burnsafe map (designated "burn"), domestic brush burning is permitted between 2pm and 8am.



In counties coloured yellow on the burnsafe map (designated as "restricted") domestic brush burning is permitted ONLY between 7pm and 8am.



In counties coloured red on the burnsafe map (designated "no burn") open fires are not permitted.

Do you need a permit to burn?

For **Domestic burning** of piles smaller than 2m by 3m and campfires, No, but you now need to check the burn restrictions map or phone line to see when you are allowed to burn.

For **Industrial burning** – YES – you do still require to obtain a permit if you are burning piles larger than 2m by 3m and will have more than 4 piles burning at once and are clearing land for building a structure, for agriculture or for blueberry burning over 2 hectares. Go to your local Natural Resources Office to obtain a permit.

Can I have an open fire in the morning?

No. No matter what colour the map shows, there is NO domestic brush burning or campfires permitted in Nova Scotia between 8am and 2pm, except Industrial Permits. For INDUSTRIAL PERMITS you must call the local office first prior to igniting your fire to make sure conditions are safe to do so.

What is domestic brush burning?

Domestic brush burning is burning (for no remuneration) woody debris in 2 piles or fewer which are no wider than 3 m and no taller than 2 m. Domestic brush burning includes campfires (except in licensed private, municipal, and provincial campgrounds) and blueberry burning which is less/equal to 2 ha.

What is considered a campfire?

Any open fire that burns no larger than 0.5 m in diameter and is intended for recreation and not for survival is considered a campfire.

What about burning in chimineas, fire pits, and other backyard burning appliances?

If the fire is not in an enclosed CSA approved appliance, the fire is considered to be an open fire. A chiminea is an open fire.

Some municipal bylaws vary from provincial rules – which do we follow?

Check and follow your municipal bylaws first. Your municipality may have a burning restriction that supersedes the provincial restriction. Municipal restrictions may include: the time burning is permitted, the type of burning appliance that is permitted, the location in the municipality where burning is allowed or not, etc.

Is your project

READY TO FUND?

A grant-readiness session for local not for profit organizations to learn about available funding programs

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- ✓ Important information regarding Municipal and Provincial Funding opportunities
- ✓ Connect with fellow community groups
- ✓ Ask questions about specific funding opportunities

📍 Glasgow Square Theatre

Thursday, May 2nd

Doors open at 6pm

📅 Start time: 6:30pm

FREE



To register contact: clare.steele@munpict.ca
Registration Deadline: Monday, April 29th at noon

Presented by the Province of Nova Scotia,
The Town of New Glasgow and the
Municipality of Pictou County



An illustration showing a pair of hands in a green jacket planting a small spruce seedling into a mound of dark soil. In the background, there are several larger, mature spruce trees. The scene is set against a light, warm-toned background.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Help Us Plant Trees

**TO COMBAT
CLIMATE CHANGE!**

The Municipality of Pictou County is looking for volunteers to help plant 5,000 spruce seedings on May 11, 2024. No experience is required. Anyone interested in helping can contact Councillor David Parker at david.parker@munpict.ca.