Rural News and Views

Newsletter



Fall 2024

The MOPC Fun Day was held at the MOPC Administrative Building on Aug. 29. See more of the fun on page 14. IN THIS ISSUE: • Election nominees, P. 3 Energy efficiency options, P. 5 MOPC Network update, P. 7

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Adam MacInnis adam.macinnis@munpict.ca

Warden's Fall Message

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. We had lots of good beach days to enjoy our warm Northumberland waters and most crops grew well with an especially abundant crop of blueberries, pumpkins and corn.



With most carnivals and festivals winding down as the big yellow buses hit the road again, the final big summer event was the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition. I want to congratulate all the exhibitors and volunteers on a very successful exhibition, especially considering that some of the long-time volunteers are no longer available. There was a great show from our 4-H clubs as always to lead off the exhibition. It is good to see the new barn taking shape and will be ready to go for fall 2025.

Our rural municipality contributed \$90,000 to this construction, a good investment for the future of our exhibition and a vote of confidence in our agriculture industry in Pictou County. MOPC Network, our branding for the County's high speed internet project, is moving along steadily, although everybody, including councillors, would like to see things happen sooner. Our objective is to hook up as many homes to fibre as possible, possibly as many as 75 per cent. One of our biggest holdups has been working with Nova Scotia Power to clear trees and brush under the lines and replace worn out poles. This and getting right of ways across highways and watercourses has been timeconsuming. We are getting more co-operation now from Nova Scotia Power and N.S. Dept. of Public Works. We will soon be moving toward Little Harbour and eastward. Thanks for your patience. There are always kinks on a new project, but our staff are working hard to get past them.

Our summer students and regular staff have done a superb job of delivering recreation opportunities this summer across our County. Hats off to them! The playboxes located in many communities have been a real hit with our younger residents, as have the programs, including swimming, offered in many areas where there is an established interest.

With the opening of the new pickleball court in River John, we now have two courts in Pictou County (the other is in Little Harbour). These are meant for everybody and are great for both physical and mental health.

Finally, a big thank you to Councillors David Parker and Don Butler. Both have decided to retire after serving their residents and our County well over many years.

Warden Robert Parker

Election 2024

The nominations are in and residents of Pictou County will soon be headed to the polls to choose their councillors in the 2024 Municipal Election.

All voting in the upcoming Oct. 19 election will be electronic. Voters will have the option to vote online or by phone. Voter cards and more information will be mailed out. Residents can expect this information to arrive by the first week of October. Those who do not receive a voter card by that time or would like to confirm they're registered to vote should contact the Returning Office at (902) 485-2253.

There will be two kiosks set up for those requiring assistance on Oct. 12, 2024, from noon to 8 p.m. and Oct. 15, 2024, from noon to 8 p.m. Kiosks will be set up at the Pictou County Wellness Centre and Scotsburn Fire Hall ONLY for anyone requiring assistance.

Residents will be able to cast their ballots starting at noon on Oct. 6, 2024, through 7 p.m. on Oct. 19, 2024. This can be done with any electronic device, phone or, for those requiring assistance, at a kiosk between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Oct. 19, 2024.

If you are unsure if you're registered to vote or have changes to update, you can contact the Returning Office at (902) 485-2253. Any revisions should be received by Oct. 7, 2024. Visit www.electionspictoucounty.ca for the latest election information.

2024 Municipal Elections

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

The candidates for the Municipality of Pictou County

DISTRICT 1

Joe MacDonald Daniel Muir

District 2

Deborah G. Wadden - Acclaimed

District 3

Darla MacKeil Robbie MacInnis

District 4

Ronnie Baillie Mary Wooldridge-Elliott

District 5

Wayne Murray - Acclaimed

District 6

Robert G. Parker - Acclaimed

District 7

Christina Cameron Donald Parker

District 8

Peter Baird Francis Sanders Larry Turner

District 9

Peter Boyles Monica Thomsen

District 10

Donna MacGregor J. Randy Palmer

District 11

Gregg MacDonald Andy Thompson

District 12

Chester F. Dewar - Acclaimed

Mailing Address

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

Call Us

902-485-4311 902-752-1530



Climate committee launches education campaign

Recognizing the implications of climate change, in 2019 the Municipality of Pictou County (MOPC) Council formed a Climate Change Advisory Committee composed of County Councillors and citizen representatives.

In February 2022, the Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and committed to reducing its carbon footprint to netzero and to assist its citizens, businesses and community organizations in reducing fossil fuel consumption. To follow through on this commitment, in July 2023 the Advisory Committee commissioned the preparation of a Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP).

As part of the MCCAP development, the Advisory Committee is conducting a public education and engagement program. Over the next five weeks, MOPC will release information on the impacts of climate change on Pictou County, which will be followed by a series of townhall meetings to engage with interested citizens.

The proposed locations for the engagement meetings are Durham Community Hall, Hillside Community Hall, Merigomish School House Community Centre, River John Legion, Little Harbour Community Centre, and Eureka Fire Hall.

Watch for announcements on the dates for these events on the MOPC website and social media platforms.

MOPC COUNCIL

DISTRICT 1 DON BUTLER

902-926-2589

DON.BUTLER@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 2 DEBORAH WADDEN

902-752-1303

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902-754-0101

ANDY.THOMPSON@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 12 CHESTER DEWAR

902-923-2931

CHESTER.DEWAR@MUNPICT.CA

MOPC WEBSITE: WWW.MUNPICT.CA

What Are Your Energy Efficiency Options?







What's available to upgrade your homes energy efficiency?

There are quite a few options currently to upgrade your home's energy efficiency, but there is one main problem. The confusion surrounding all the different programs! So lets help clear that up! There are many options for financing and multiple rebates that provide support for home energy upgrades. Lets take a look at a few of them.

Canada Greener Homes Loan:

Offers 0% interest financing for home energy upgrades up to \$40,000! The only deterrent with this program is the processing times. It can take some time for payment to be released upon the projects completion, leaving the homeowner to bear the upfront cost for their upgrade. There are also many specific requirements that can render homeowners unable to participate in the program. i.e. credit check. To learn more search the following link. https://naturalresources.canada.ca/energyefficiency/homes/canadagreener-homesinitiative/canada-greenerhomes-loan/24286

Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Program (OHPA): OHPA is a great option for homeowners to install heat pumps on their property. The program offers up to \$15,000 in rebates to completely transition off oil. This program also has many specific eligibility requirements. If your interested in learning about these requirements search the following link: efficiencyns.ca/residential/services-rebates/oil-to-heatpump

Switch MOPC: Offers financing through your municipal government for home energy upgrades. This program also provides an Energy Concierge service to guide homeowners through the entire upgrade process. Switch MOPC requires no credit check and has much less requirements, so it will oftentimes be the most widely accessible option for many homeowners. The program pays your contractor upfront for your upgrade with homeowners paying back the program with monthly payments over 10 years. However with an interest rate of 7.9% we encourage homeowners to explore all available options and evaluate what's best for their home and wallet.

Switch MOPC can be a great option to fill the gaps of the other programs. Bridging is available with the Canada Greener Homes Loan - Switch MOPC will pay your contractor upfront you start on payments at 7.9% until your payment is released from **Greener Homes** - then you can pay off your Switch loan with no additional fees. Switch MOPC can also be a great option to cover the remaining costs of your heat pump through **OHPA**. The best part of the Switch MOPC program is that you can call us to speak directly to one of our Energy Concierges. We can walk you through all the best options and discuss what would be best for your home and your wallet free of charge!

Potential Rebates



Ductless heat pump

\$300 per ton



® □ Ducted heat pump

\$500 per ton



┌// Attic Insulation

Up to \$750



Exterior Wall Insulation

Up to \$1500



Solar Panels

Up to \$3000



Hybrid Hot Water Heater

Up to \$400

Call Switch MOPC today to explore your best options



(902) 334-4227



info@switchmopc.ca





Order your reliable, affordable and fast internet today!



www.MOPCFibreFirst.ca

- Fast internet speeds at great prices
- You choose the provider









www.MOPCFirstHome.ca

- · Internet where you need it at great prices
- · Up to **50 Mbps** for **\$79.99**

The MOPC Network is currently available to over 5,000 homes in the county, with new connections being added regularly.

MOPC NETWORK SPRING & SUMMER PROJECT UPDATE

As we move through the spring and summer months, the MOPC Network is making pivotal progress in our mission to enhance connectivity across Pictou County. We are proud to announce expansion of our fibre and wireless network coverage to bring affordable and high-quality internet connectivity throughout Pictou County.

Community Engagement:

Our commitment to community engagement has also been at the forefront of our efforts this summer. The team has been actively participating in local events, which provided us with valuable opportunities to connect with residents, answer your questions, and facilitate new service sign-ups. The feedback from these interactions has been overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing the importance of our presence in the community.





New Website:

If you haven't yet taken advantage of our services, now is the perfect time to get connected. Visit **MOPCNetwork.ca** to find the right plan for you. We have made the process simple and easy. You check your eligibility and select the plan that best suits your needs.

MOPC Network has a new website designed to help our community find the right plan and provider. Determine the best fibre or wireless plan to fit your home or business internet needs. You can now easily check service availability for your home or business and sign up directly through the site.

As we continue our work, MOPC Network remains dedicated to providing the highest quality service to our community, ensuring that every resident has access to reliable, affordable and fast internet. We will keep you updated as we continue to expand our services, and work to make Pictou County the most connected county in Canada.

River John Pickleball Courts completion celebrated

The official opening of the River John Pickleball Courts was held Friday, Aug. 30, 2024. Volunteers worked hard over the last two and a half years to make the project a reality.

In total, the project cost \$235,000. Of that, \$150,000 came from government sources, including the Municipality of Pictou County. The remainder was raised through community donations from individuals, organizations and businesses.

Warden Robert Parker joined Councillor Mary Elliott in attendance at the ribbon cutting and spoke about the benefits the courts will have to the community by improving physical and mental health while also contributing to the economy.



Warden Robert Parker (right) and Councillor Mary Elliott (third from left) attended the grand opening of the River John Pickleball Court on Aug. 30, 2024. The Municipality of Pictou County was proud to be a supporter of the new courts, which also received provincial and federal funding as well as donations from individuals, business and organizations within the community.

It's been a busy and exciting summer in District 4

Summer has certainly passed by quickly, staff and students are back to school/ university and autumn is upon us. I would like to extend best wishes to everyone for a safe and blessed year. It's a beautiful time of year which I hope each of you will enjoy.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and communities members who organize and plan festivals and events, your commitment and generosity doesn't go unnoticed. We are grateful for your willingness to give your time and talents. It has been a busy and exciting summerCongratulations to you all!

It's hard to believe almost four years has passed. I am excited for the new term ahead and if re-elected as your councillor I will continue to do my best. I look forward to working with you all.

Please take advantage of all the helpful information in our Rural News and Views.

Sincerely,
District 4 Councillor
Mary Wooldridge-Elliott





Family and friends gathered for a 103rd birthday celebration for Mabel Zinck, July 25th at St. George's Presbyterian Church Hall in River John. Councillor Mary Elliott presented Mabel with a certificate from the Municipality of Pictou County in honour of this milestone.



Jean Marie Henderson of Seafoam celebrated her 90th birthday on Aug. 16, 2024



Marjorie Johnson Fraser of Toney Mills celebrated her 90th Birthday on June 14, 2024





4-H Day

At the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition





Pictou County civic sign suppliers

Supplier	Civic Address	Area Served	Phone	Email
Alma Fire	80 Alma Loop, Alma	Alma Area	902-759-4479	nedrawilson@eastlink.ca
Auto Trim & Sign	669 Pine tree road, Thorburn, NS	Pictou County	902-922-2915	design@atdnortheast.ca
Barney's River Fire	13317 Highway 104, Pictou County	Pictou County	902-754-8422	joemacd@eastlink.ca
Eastern Sign	125 North Foord Street, Stellarton	Pictou County	902-752-2722	info@easternsign.ca
Eureka Fire	5222 Stellarton Trafalgar Road, Eureka	Pictou County	902-923-2394	cliffjardine@hotmail.com
Little Harbour Fire	8328 Pictou Landing Road, Little Harbour	Little Harbour Area		firechief@lhfd.ca
Plymouth Fire	4667 E River East Side Road, Plymouth	Plymouth Area	902-755-3229	mikemconway@eastlink.ca
Sketch-It Design	268 Munroe Avenue Ext. New Glasgow	Pictou County	902-754-7446	sketchitsd@outlook.com
Thorburn Fire	738 Marsh Road, Thorburn	Pictou County	902-922-3419	thorburnfiredept@gmail.com

Bridge reopens on Jitney Trail

The Jitney Trail's Gut Bridge is officially open.
A grand opening ceremony for the bridge, which borders the Town of Pictou and Municipality of Pictou County, was held, Aug. 30, 2024.

The new bridge replaced one that was destroyed by a fire in 2022.

The project, which came at a cost of \$705,000 was made possible through a \$220,000 contribution from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), as well as funding from the Province of Nova Scotia of \$200,000, the Municipality of Pictou County at \$100,000 and the Town of Pictou at \$185,000.

The trail bridge, locally known as the Gut Bridge, is a vital part of the trail system that ties Pictou to the larger regional and national networks, including the Trans Canada Trail, Nova Scotia's Blue Route cycling network, and the International Appalachian Trail.

"The loss of Gut Bridge was a blow to the community, but it also presented an opportunity to reimagine this essential link," said Central Nova MP Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities.



Warden Robert Parker, second from right, joined Central Nova MP Sean Fraser, Pictou Mayor Jim Ryan and Pictou West MLA Marco MacLeod for the opening of the Jitney Trail Bridge.

Built by Partners Construction, the new 130-foot freespan bridge features a durable metal structure with a coated steel deck and a 10-foot width. The free-span design, which eliminates any piers or obstructions in the waterway below, enhances navigation for small watercraft and improves the overall environmental sustainability of the site. Enhanced shoreline protection and improved materials ensure the bridge is resilient against future fire or damage.

How to pay your taxes



Taxes are due Oct. 15, 2024

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.

Boards help address many issues

As we close out the mandate I would first like to say thank you to to the residents of District 8 for their counsel throughout the term. The input from the residents has certainly guided my approach to addressing issues at both Council and Committee levels. It is my intention to run in the election in October. Over the last three terms I have witnessed how each council was able to build value in our communities. I would like to be involved once more in moving our county forward.

A particular aspect of serving on Council are Committees and Boards on which we sit that address many issues over the course of the mandate. Two particular Boards that I sit on are making decisions that will have a long lasting impact on our County. The Valley View Villa Board is currently involved in building a new Valley View Villa. This facility is going to home to 144 residents. All with single rooms and bathrooms. This will be a 39 month build. When finished the County will have a state of the art long term home.

The second Board that I sit on is the New Scotland Park board. This is a shared enterprise with the town of New Glasgow. The Dunkeld Apartments and the proposed hotel are going to add great value to the County.

Two other boards I sit on are also moving the County forward. The Pictou County Sports Hall of Fame is building a new facility. This will be a home for all displays and a place where all inductees can be viewed.

The Climate Change Committee that I sit on is doing very important work. Everything from tree planting campaigns to education about climate change. So as you see your Council is moving things forward. I am sure that the next council will continue its work in ensuring that the Counties citizens are well represented and that the taxes are used to continually build value into the County.

Respectfully Larry Turner, District 8 Councillor

FALL GUIDED HIKES

Pictou County Hiker Badge Challenge



Complete all 6 hikes, and you will earn the Pictou County Hiker Badge!

In Partnership with













September 18, 2024 6:00pm @ Caribou Provincial Park

October 2, 2024 6:00pm @ Trenton Park

October 23, 2024 6:00pm @ Acadia Park (Westville)

November 6, 2024 6:00pm @ Jitney Trail (Pictou)

November 20, 2024 6:00pm @ Samson Trail (New Glasgow)

December 4, 2024 6:00pm @ Fitzpatrick Mountain Trail (Scotsburn)

December 18, 2024 6:00pm @ Hikers Choice (TBD)

For additional details and registration instructions, please visit www.hikenovascotia.ca/programsguided-walks/

District 9 Update

Greetings District 9 Residents!

We have had a hot, hot summer and so far, fall looks to be beautiful; hopefully winter will be kind to us this year. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. The new school year has begun, please keep an extra eye out for the school buses and children crossing the street on their way to and from school.

Thank you to the Linacy Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary for their continuous service to our community. The Burn Camp Parade and Bike Ride was a great success again this year. The children love and look forward to this event plus a lot of money, over \$5,000 was raised to support the camp. It required an unbelievable number of hours and planning to make these projects successful. Steve and Dee Stewart continue to spearhead this project along with all the hardworking firefighters, auxiliary members, volunteers, participants, and bikers.

The Linacy fire department has many new training projects planned for this fall, they welcome community members to come out and see what they are doing or if you are interested in joining the fire department. Also, if you are interested in Linacy hall bookings contact: Erin Pettipas at 902-921-3863.

The paving of the road from the New Glasgow line through Linacy to the Cove Road has begun by the province. Presently I am lobbying for grading, gravelling, and ditching to be done on District 9's unpaved roads.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the people of District 9 for allowing me to serve as their councillor for the past 8 years. It has been a privilege to represent you at the council table and to work for you. I will be re-offering in the October municipal election to be your District 9 councillor.

Thank you for your support in the past and I ask for your support in the upcoming election.

I encourage everyone to attend the Remembrance Day services taking place at the cenotaph in your community. Let us always honour those men and women who put their lives on the line and bravely fought for our country to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. Lest We Forget.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me with any of your municipal questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving and a safe winter.

Sincerely: Peter Boyles, Councillor -District 9

Email: peter.boyles@munpict.ca

Phone- 902-759-7976

Hillside Community Society Fall 2024

The Hillside Community Hall was busy this summer with many rentals, a benefit event and the first Hillside School Reunion. The school reunion was a grand success. Many students and teacher Mr. John Carter were in attendance. Many stories and laughs were shared.

The very popular Friday Night Kitchen Party has returned after the summer break. The Kitchen Party is held every Friday night from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. General admission is \$5 dollars, free admission for musicians and a light lunch is served.

We continue to have our monthly 50/50 draw on the second Wednesday of each month. Your support is needed and much appreciated. If you wish to get in on the draw you can contact Morgan at 902-921-1118 by phone or email. E transfer is an option. The draw is videoed live and shown on our Facebook site.

Visit us on Facebook "Hillside Community Hall "for upcoming events and notices. The Hillside Community Hall is available for rental depending upon the size of the event. Please contact Morgan at 902-921-1118 by phone for possible booking dates and further information.

Whom do you call?

To report a problem with a streetlight please call 902-485-1201 or email outages@munpict.ca

If you have a MOPC public works emergency after hours, call 902-301-1825

Most roads in rural Pictou County are owned by the province. If you have a concern contact the Department of Transportation at 902-755-7060 or toll-free at 1-844-696-7737

MOPC Fun Day a success

Thanks to everyone who came out to our MOPC Fun Day on Aug. 29, 2024. There was a great turnout for this event.







Need a landfill voucher?

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

Get yours at the MOPC office or by mail.

Call 902 485-4311 for more information.

Connect with us!

The MOPC's GeoHub is a great way for residents to find out about our services such as building permits or to submit a bylaw complaint. Check it out at https://mopc-pictoucounty.hub.arcgis.com

Fire Prevention Week 2024 Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!

As we head into fall, The Municipality of Pictou County is encouraging residents to think about fire safety, particularly during Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 6-Oct. 12, 2024.

This year's theme is: "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!"

The campaign works to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

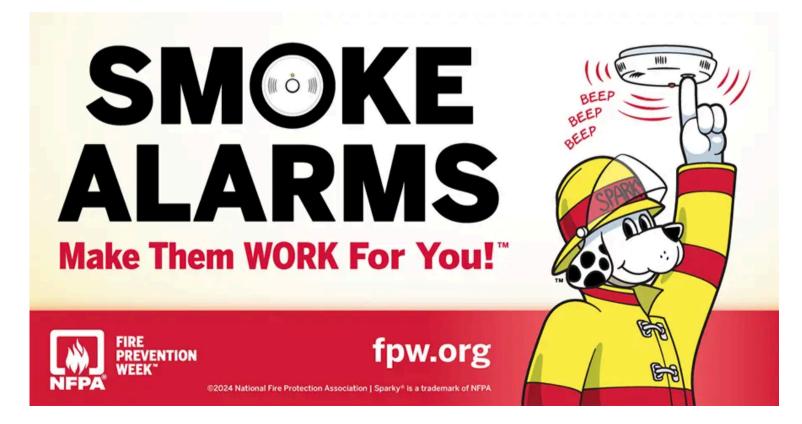
According to National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)—the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 100 years—smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (54 per cent). Meanwhile, roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"Smoke alarms serve as the first line of defense in a home fire, but they need to be working in order to protect people," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. "This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign helps better educate the public about simple but critical steps they can take to make sure their homes have smoke alarms in all the needed locations and that they're working properly."

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and smoke alarms, visit fpw.org.

Smoke alarm safety tips and guidelines:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.







OCTOBER 19, 2024

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

WWW.ELECTIONSPICTOUCOUNTY.CA