

Rural News and Views

Newsletter



Fall 2025



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Internet update
- Fire safety tips
- IESO open house

Zoe picked up a tree at the Pictou County Wellness Centre during the tree giveaway held on Oct. 11. See more inside.

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Warden's Fall Message

What a beautiful part of the world we live in! As I put pen to paper, the leaf colour is truly spectacular. Driving anywhere in our rural municipality from Barney's River through to River John, from MacLellan's Brook to Mt. Thom, endless mixtures of reds, oranges, yellows, purples and more. God's paintbrush at its best!



Of course, we have had an exceptionally dry summer and some thought that might have a negative effect on the leaf colour, but certainly not the case. Thankfully, our county was not one of those affected by the terrible wildfires this summer, and we certainly feel for those in Kings and Annapolis counties who suffered significant losses.

One of the biggest effects of this long drought has been people's wells going dry, especially surface or dug wells. Our municipality has a program in cooperation with the Province to provide potable water to anyone in rural Pictou County whose well has gone dry. The program provides one 4-litre jug per person per day and can be picked up in weekly allotments. This program is meant to assist with drinking water, not all the other water needed to run a household. It is a very difficult world when your water runs out. We are investigating other possible programs that other municipalities are using to assist residents whose wells go dry.

I am pleased to report that our County's new internet network is proceeding at a much higher rate of speed, with well over 50% of households now having service available. Most who have connected are very pleased with the services and with the price. And please remember that when you join the MOPC Network, you are helping our Municipality to pay off the installation costs and eventually, like paying off your mortgage, reach a point where we can help hold our tax rates down with the funds that would have gone to distant shareholders. Without providing this service, many of our rural communities would eventually empty out as modern life requires being "connected".

We will soon move toward another Remembrance Day. The freedoms and privileges we all enjoy and want our children and grandchildren to enjoy were won in hard-fought battles that seem so far behind us. Let us never forget all the men and women from our local communities who paid the ultimate price and the tremendous changes in the lives of their families left behind. Let us never take for granted the peace and safety that we enjoy, for the world is changing fast. Let us always "stand on guard" and remember all those who did.

On behalf of my fellow councillors and all our staff, I wish you all a happy holiday season. Please be safe on our roads and at home, and please be there for your neighbours who may need a helping hand.

Warden Robert Parker

Hardwood giveaway

Members of the MOPC’s Tree Planting Subcommittee, along with some volunteers, had a great time passing out trees at the Pictou County Wellness Centre on Saturday, Oct. 11.

In total, 500 maple and oak seedlings, along with tree shelters, were given to residents. Thanks to everyone who took a tree to help capture carbon and beautify our county!



Environmental specialist hired

The Municipality of Pictou is pleased to welcome Emily Hodgson as the new Environmental Specialist for the MOPC and the Town of Pictou.

She’ll be helping our communities assess climate risks, develop adaptation strategies, and support projects that strengthen local resilience to climate change.

Emily holds a Master’s degree in Environmental Science and has spent the past three years working with coastal ecosystems, salt marshes, and climate change resilience.

Originally from Northern Ontario, she’s excited to call Pictou County home.



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

Greetings from District 8

As the leaves finish their colours I would like to wish all our residents a Happy Fall season.

Our Councillors and the Council as a whole continue to work towards shared goals.

Our dedicated volunteers in the community and on our committees play a vital role in shaping the future of our County. So I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers across our County.



The input from our residents has given the County a strategic vision to what the County will look like in the future. One such vision has been put forward from our Climate Change committee. With Community consultation, the County is moving forward on ways to lessen weather event damage on our infrastructure and also looking for ways to lessen our carbon footprint.

Capital projects continue to be an important conversation around the Council table. From sidewalks to water and sewer, I can say that all the Councillors around the table are pushing to improve the conditions in their Districts.

Wishing you a healthy and Happy Fall Season.

Larry Turner
District 8 Councillor

How can we help?

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

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

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>

Looking for 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.

MOPC COUNCIL

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WWW.MUNPICT.CA

Community Open House

Proposed fast acting natural gas power generation



IESO Nova Scotia invites you to attend an Open House to learn more about proposed fast acting natural gas power generation being considered for the communities of **Salt Springs** and/or **Marshdale**, Pictou County.

This is an opportunity to meet with project representatives, ask questions, and share your feedback. All are welcome, and light refreshments will be provided. Information will be available on:

- The role fast acting generation will play to support reliable electricity as part of the province's Clean Power Plan to end coal and increase renewables
- Ongoing facility planning for site development
- Potential community benefits, such as jobs, training, and economic spinoffs

Open House Details:

Proposed Salt Springs Facility

Nov 12, 4-8 pm • West River Fire Hall, 19 Gates Rd, Salt Springs

Proposed Marshdale Facility

Nov 13, 4-8 pm • Eureka Fire Hall, 5222 Stellarton Trafalgar Road, Eureka

www.ieso-nb.ca
community@ieso-nb.ca



Building inspector reaches Level 2

Three years ago, Cody Avery joined our team as a Building Intern, hired to facilitate the need for a third body in our Building Inspection Department. Since the Municipality of Pictou County has been seeing record high permitting numbers, the need to further Cody's education and qualification was

As a Level 2 Building Official with the Nova Scotia Building Officials Association (NSBOA), Cody has developed a strong foundation of technical expertise, regulatory knowledge, and professional experience within the field of building inspection and code enforcement.

Achieving this designation represents several years of dedication to both formal education and hands-on municipal experience. The process includes the successful completion of extensive coursework in areas such as the National Building Code of Canada, plumbing and mechanical systems, building construction and materials, fire and life safety, and legal responsibilities related to code administration. Each course builds upon the next,

requiring a deep understanding of structural design, building science, and public safety principles.

Beyond the classroom, the Level 2 certification requires a minimum of two years of practical experience under the supervision of a qualified building official, ensuring that candidates gain real-world skills in plan review,

permitting, inspection, and compliance enforcement.

Cody's achievement of the Level 2 designation reflects not only advanced technical proficiency but also a commitment to upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and public safety within Nova Scotia's building sector.



Development Officer hired

The Municipality of Pictou County is happy to introduce John Baanbil, who recently joined our Department of Public Works and Development as Development Officer.

John recently completed a Master's degree in City Planning at the University of Manitoba, during which time he also completed a co-op placement with Urban Systems Ltd. in Manitoba.

Please join us in welcoming him to this community.



Anti-litter signage unveiled

A new anti-litter campaign is underway in Pictou County thanks to some help from Pictou County photographers and local wildlife.

On Sept. 11, the MOPC Litter Awareness Committee unveiled signs created using photos from a photo contest the committee had organized.

The newly established committee is tasked with helping raise awareness to reduce littering in Pictou County.

After looking at what had been done in other areas, the committee decided to try creating signs featuring wildlife.

Residents were encouraged to submit photos of wildlife they had captured locally, that could be used in anti-litter signs.

Close to 150 photos were submitted for the contest from throughout Pictou County.

The winning photos were taken by:

- Linda Windsor
- Nick Snell
- Wendy Doggett

Twenty-four signs were made at Auto Trim and Sign, a Pictou County business.

Each sign features one of the winning images and a message encouraging people not to litter.

The MOPC thanks everyone who participated in the contest and Divert Nova Scotia, which provided funding to help cover the cost of the signs.

Residents can expect to see the new signs throughout the county.



Linda Windsor, left, was one of the contest winners. She is pictured with Pictou County Solid Waste Waste Reduction and Safety Coordinator Deborah Searle and Litter Awareness Committee Chair Darla MacKeil.



Nick Snell's photo of a goose was selected as a winner. He is pictured with Deborah Searle and Litter Awareness Committee Chair Darla MacKeil.



Connecting Community: The Growth of MOPC Network

MOPC Network is transforming the way Pictou County connects. What started as a bold vision to deliver **reliable, high-speed internet** across the region is now a **thriving reality**—more homes and businesses join our network every month.

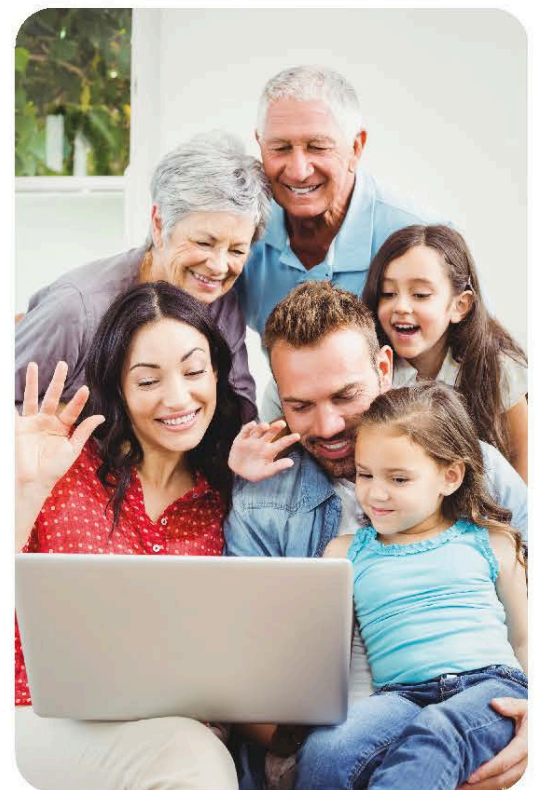
But this isn't just about faster internet. It's about **empowering people, strengthening communities, and ensuring no one is left behind** as technology moves forward.

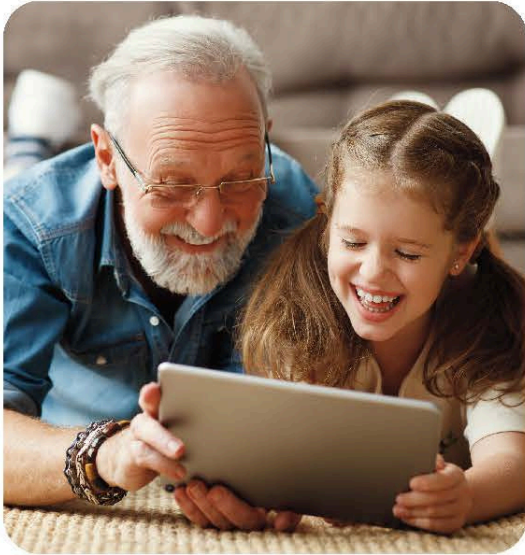
MOPC Network now offers:

- Home phone
- Home security
- Television services

With new options added all the time, MOPC Network keeps you **connected, protected, and entertained**. Whether you're **learning, running a business, or staying in touch with family**, we're here to power what matters most.

Together with residents, partners, and local innovators, we're building more than a network—**we're building connections that inspire independence, spark community, and bring Pictou County even closer together.**





Senior Valet Service

We're thrilled to announce **something truly special** — an **all-new service** created exclusively for our **seniors!** This **one-of-a-kind program** is being designed right here in Pictou County to make technology **simpler, safer, and more personal** than ever before.

It's our way of making sure every senior can stay confidently connected, cared for, and part of the digital future.

Earn Cash with Our Referral Program

Share the MOPC love and **get rewarded!**

When you refer a friend to MOPC Network, **you get \$50 and they get \$25** — just for joining the **fastest-growing network in Pictou County.** It's that simple!

So go ahead — tell your neighbours, your friends, even your dog walker — because **great connections are meant to be shared!**



Stay tuned in the coming months for more **updates** on **new areas** of network **expansion, additional services,** and the launch of our **Senior Valet Program.**

The future of connection in Pictou County is **local, reliable, and designed with community at its heart.**

Visit www.MOPCNetwork.ca to check availability, manage your account, or refer a friend.

Celebrating milestones in Pictou County



Councillor Joe MacDonald recently presented a 90th Birthday certificate to Sheldon Stright. The MOPC gives certificates for milestone birthdays at 80, 90, 100 and 100 plus.



On Saturday, Aug. 23, William and Betty Lou Scott celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary at St. Luke's United Church Hall in Salt Springs. Councillor Donnie Parker presented a Certificate of Congratulations to the special couple. A large crowd of family and friends celebrated their anniversary with them.

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	barneysriverfire@gmail.com
Advocate Sign Group	125 North Foord Street, Stellarton	Pictou County	902-752-2722	info@advocateprinting.com
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	902-755-5441	livingstonerod6@gmail.com
Sketch-It Design	268 Munroe Avenue Ext. New Glasgow	Pictou County	902-752-7446	sketchitsd@outlook.com
Thorburn Fire	738 Marsh Road, Thorburn	Pictou County		thorburnfiredept@gmail.com

Hillside Community Hall News

Friday Night Kitchen Party Returns!

We're excited to announce that the ever-popular Friday Night Kitchen Party is back after the summer break! Join us every Friday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission: \$5 Free for musicians! A light lunch is served. Come out, enjoy some great local music, and spend time with friends and neighbors.

Monthly 50/50 Draw

Our monthly 50/50 draw continues the second Wednesday of each month. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps keep our community hall thriving.

To participate, contact Morgan at 902-921-1118 (phone or email). E-transfer is also available.

The draw is videoed live and posted on our Facebook page. Be sure to follow us on Facebook at "Hillside Community Hall" upcoming events, and announcements.

Hall Rentals

Looking for a venue for your next event? The Hillside Community Hall is available for rentals of all sizes. To inquire about booking dates or details, please contact Morgan at 902-921-1118.



Warden Robert Parker is pictured with family at this year's Terry Fox Run in Pictou. The fundraiser was held on Sept. 14. Thanks to the support of family, friends and residents, Warden Parker was able to raise \$5,335 for the event this year.

Did you know?



Most roads in rural Pictou County are owned and maintained by the Province of Nova Scotia. If you have a road maintenance concern, you can contact the Department of Transportation toll-free at 1-844-696-7737.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

Fire detectors save lives

Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and remember to charge the batteries.

Create an escape plan

Ensure all members of the family know the emergency exits at home in case of fire.

Switch off appliances

Double check and make sure appliances are not left running after use.

Monitor your extinguishers

Constantly check your fire extinguishers and replace as necessary.

Clean vents and dryers

Clean lint filters after use and ensure all vents are unobstructed.

**BE AWARE AND
STAY SAFE!**






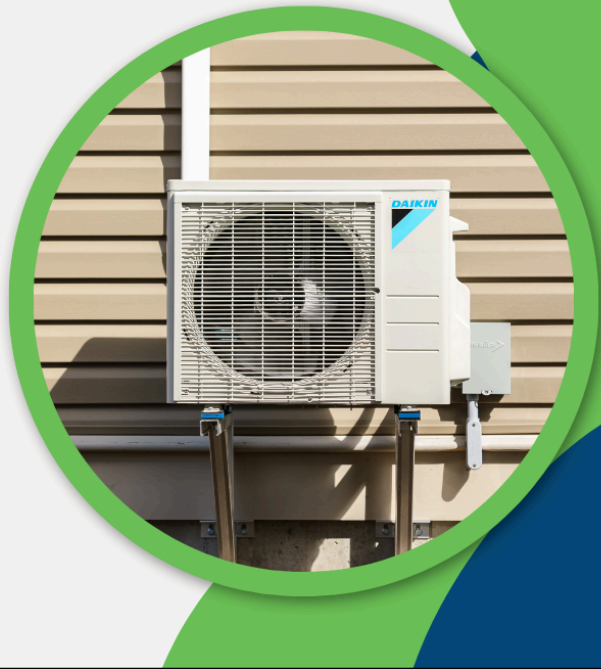
QUESTIONS ABOUT UPGRADING YOUR HOMES ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

The Switch MOPC
program is here to
answer all your
questions!

CONTACT US TODAY

 (902) 334-4227

 Switchmopc.ca



Work has begun
on the
MacLellan's
Brook-Coalburn
water extension
project.

Work is expected
to take place over
the next year and
a half. For more
information,
phone the
Department of
Public Works at
(902) 485-4085.



KidSport Nova Scotia provides grants to kids from families facing financial barriers to help cover the costs of sport registration and equipment fees so that all kids in Nova Scotia can experience the benefits of sport.

They provide grants up to \$500 per year for eligible families so ALL Kids Can Play!

To apply for a KidSport grant or learn more about the program contact Cindy Fraser at cindy.fraser@munpict.ca or phone 902-485-8528.

MOPC ALERT



**Scan the QR Code to sign up
for alerts from the MOPC
that matter to you!**



Community update from District 9

I have continued to receive numerous complaints regarding speeding vehicles in our area. I urge all drivers to please slow down and respect posted speed limits. The RCMP are aware of the situation and have been placing electronic speed signs in various areas. These signs are designed to encourage slower speeds in areas with recurring speeding issues. With shorter days and children going and coming from school, I remind everyone to drive slowly and stay alert. Fallen leaves and wet roads can make driving conditions slippery, so take extra care in residential areas and near crosswalks. Please report any dangerous driving behaviour to the authorities. Let's keep our neighbourhoods safe for everyone.



Regarding roads and infrastructure for District 9. I formally requested a meeting with our Pictou East MLA, Tim Houston, one year ago. These road issues can affect residents' safety and daily travel, and I would like the opportunity to share specific examples and explore possible solutions with our MLA. I received a written response outlining road improvement plans; however, I am still waiting on a date and time to discuss District 9 road conditions and issues with Mr. Houston in person. I will keep residents informed on updates or when a meeting time becomes available. Since most roads in our rural areas are under provincial control, meeting with our MLA is necessary to address our road problems and how we can fix them. Presently, I am lobbying for grading, gravelling, and ditching to be done on District 9's unpaved roads.

There has been a noticeable increase in coyote activity and sightings throughout Pictou County. The Town of Trenton is advising residents and trail users that the Nova Scotia Dept. of Natural Resources & Renewables have confirmed sightings of sick coyotes in Trenton. They have set up traps and placed signage, currently concentrating around the Airport Route Trail (Smelt Brook Park to Park Road). Also, as the weather cools and natural food sources become scarce, coyotes become more active and may venture closer to neighbourhoods.

Please remember to keep pets on a leash and supervise them, especially at dawn and dusk. Secure garbage, compost, and pet food. Never feed coyotes. If you encounter a coyote, make loud noises, wave your arms, and back away slowly. To report a nuisance coyote phone 1-800-565-2224
<https://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/living-with-wildlife/be-coyote-smart.asp>

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible Linacy volunteer firefighters for their ongoing dedication and service.

Your commitment to keeping our community safe especially during this dry summer's fire season, does not go unnoticed. The county deeply appreciates the countless hours you spend training, responding to emergencies, supporting local events, fundraising and educating our residents.

I want to highlight just some of the incredible work done by both the Linacy Fire Department and the Ladies Auxiliary in organizing the Open House on October 8th for fire prevention week, visiting the schools and talking with students about fire prevention, the afternoon music jam and hosting MFFA Darts The Open House and school visit was a big hit, the children loved learning from our firefighters and exploring the fire trucks. It was a fun and educational experience for everyone! Make sure to support the Linacy Fire Hall when buying your 50/50 tickets! Thank you to Bruce and Tanya Young for the countless hours they volunteer; we deeply appreciate your leadership.

Congratulations to Bill Muirhead for being recognized for 45 years of service as a paramedic. Your unwavering commitment to caring for others and serving our community is an inspiration to all. Thank you, Bill, for your remarkable contribution and decades of compassion.

Our Rural Internet Project is progressing and should soon be available to all of District 9. Information is changing rapidly, and the best place to stay up to date on the progress is the website: www.mopcnetwork.ca or for general information, contact: info@mopcnetwork.ca Toll-free: 1-833-727-2256

Stay warm, stay safe, and take time to enjoy the beauty of autumn in our community.

I encourage everyone to attend a Remembrance Day service taking place at the cenotaphs in your community. Let us honour the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our country. If you are unable to attend a service on November 11, please remember to observe a moment of silence at 11:00 a.m. to remember the courage, sacrifice, and dedication to peace and freedom of our service men and women. "Lest we forget."

I extend to everyone sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Have fun and a safe winter.

Sincerely:
Peter Boyles
Councillor – District 9
Email: peter.boyles@munpict.ca
Phone- 902-759-7976

Safety Tips

Power Outages



Be prepared:

- Have enough water, food, medications, pet supplies to last at least 72-hours
- Charge cell phones and other devices. Consider purchasing a power bank to charge devices
- Have a battery-powered or wind-up radio
- Check the supplies in your emergency kit including batteries, glow sticks and flashlights
- Consider adding an alternative heat source

During a power outage:

- Turn off appliances and leave one light on
- Use battery-powered lights or glow sticks and avoid candles
- Never use BBQs, generators or camp stoves indoors
- Avoid opening your fridge or freezer unless its necessary
- Monitor local media for updates

After a power outage

- Wait 10-15 minutes before turning on tools and appliances
- Disconnect power before entering a flooded basement
- Throw out unsafe food
- Reset clocks, timers and alarms
- Restock your emergency kit



Fitzpatrick Mountain

Fall Guided Hike

Sunday, November 16, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Fitzpatrick Mountain Trail, Scotsburn

Meet in parking lot (4112-4120 Scotsburn Rd.)

The group will hike 8km on a wooded footpath with occasional obstacles, no stairs and moderate change in elevation. The hike will take approximately 120 mins to complete.



Hike 30km along trails and old rails in Pictou County to earn this Hike Nova Scotia Hiker Challenge Badge!

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

