

# *Rural News and Views*

Newsletter



Winter 2026

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Waste sorting guide
- Internet update
- Property assessment info

Park Falls in MacPhersons Mills is a beautiful spot to visit anytime of the year. This picture was taken after a snowfall on Jan. 20, 2026.

[WWW.MUNPICT.CA](http://WWW.MUNPICT.CA)

## **Chief Administrative Officer**

Brian Cullen

brian.cullen@munpict.ca

## **Dir. of Corporate Services**

Sueann Musick

sueann.musick@munpict.ca

## **Finance Office**

Deputy Municipal Treasurer

Karen Cornish

karen.cornish@munpict.ca

## **Public Works and Development**

Logan McDowell

publicworks@munpict.ca

Emergency Phone Number:

902-301-1825

## **Development Officer**

John Baanbil

developmentofficer@munpict.ca

## **Emergency Services**

Evan Hale

evan.hale@munpict.ca

## **Fire Inspection**

Jason La Greca

Jason.Lagreca@munpict.ca

## **By-law Officer**

Anne MacCarthy

bylawenforcement@munpict.ca

## **MOPC FirstHome Director of Business Operations**

Rhiannon McNair

rhiannon.mcnair@munpict.ca

## **Building Inspection**

Cody Avery

Travis Spears

buildingpermits@munpict.ca

## **Recreation**

Cindy Fraser

cindy.fraser@munpict.ca

Clare Steele

clare.steele@munpict.ca

## **Communication**

Adam MacInnis

adam.macinnis@munpict.ca

# **Warden's Winter Message**

As I put pen to paper (my preference over a keyboard), January is about to go out the back door, and February (snow month) is here already. Many folks that I talk to feel like we've already had our share of storm days and freezing temperatures.



There is never a dull day at MOPC. We are welcoming some new employees as others move on to new exciting challenges or the much-awaited retirement. In other cases, we are expanding our services and need people to deliver those services. Thank you to all who have served residents of rural Pictou County for many years.

Our MOPC Network is continuing to grow as we reach out to more communities through our staff's marketing efforts. By the end of this year, we hope that 99% of our residents will be served by MOPC internet, if they so wish, by fibre or wireless.

Some really good news, we are putting up 4 new towers in West Branch, Lansdowne, Anderson's Mountain and Merigomish.

These, along with our existing towers, will be equipped with a new generation of wireless technology called Tarana. This technology is a game-changer for our network. It is not bothered by trees or hills blocking line of sight to the tower. It allows us to reach homes that we couldn't with the former technology, and with speeds that couldn't be dreamed of before with the old technology. Be sure to contact our office if you have been told earlier that our system couldn't reach your home.

Our fire departments and our firefighters are an integral part of many communities, or usually a group of communities. We (and our fire departments) have been informed by the Province of Nova Scotia that big changes are on the way in many aspects of how these departments operate. This is a provincial initiative, but it will have a big effect on our municipality and on all 18 fire departments. Like all things, there is some good in it, but also some difficult changes.

Another Provincial initiative that Council is watching closely is the proposal to build two fast-acting natural gas generating stations in rural Pictou County to replace coal generation across the province by 2030. Residents close to the proposed sites in Salt Springs and Marshdale are rightfully very concerned about everything from water supply, stack emissions, noise, traffic and more. While the Province is determined to move fast, as with the fire departments, Council has a role to play to help residents get the protections they need for their health, their property and their environment.

Be kind to your neighbours, those friends you haven't met yet, and especially be kind to yourself

Warden Robert Parker

# National Volunteer Week 2026

April 19 to April 25

April 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> is National Volunteer Week. The Municipality of Pictou County takes this time to recognize the outstanding contribution of volunteers to the vibrancy and growth of our communities and rural lifestyle. Volunteers are special individuals who give freely of their time, talents, and enthusiasm for the benefit of others. Their efforts help to support many initiatives, services, events and programs and sustain us during times of crisis.

If you know an outstanding volunteer in your community who has contributed significantly to the residents of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, we encourage you to submit a nomination form detailing their efforts.

The Municipality will select one nominee for official recognition as Volunteer of the Year, as well as a Youth Volunteer of the Year. These volunteers will be honoured at our annual Volunteer Awards Celebration in April.

The Nomination Form link can be found on our website, [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca), in the featured section and can be filled out online. If mailing a nomination, it should be addressed to the undersigned and received on or before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2026.

Cindy Fraser, Recreation Coordinator  
Municipality of the County of Pictou  
PO Box 910 (46 Municipal Drive)  
Pictou, NS, B0K 1H0 902-485-8528  
[cindy.fraser@munpict.ca](mailto:cindy.fraser@munpict.ca)

The deadline for nominations is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, 2026.



## 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

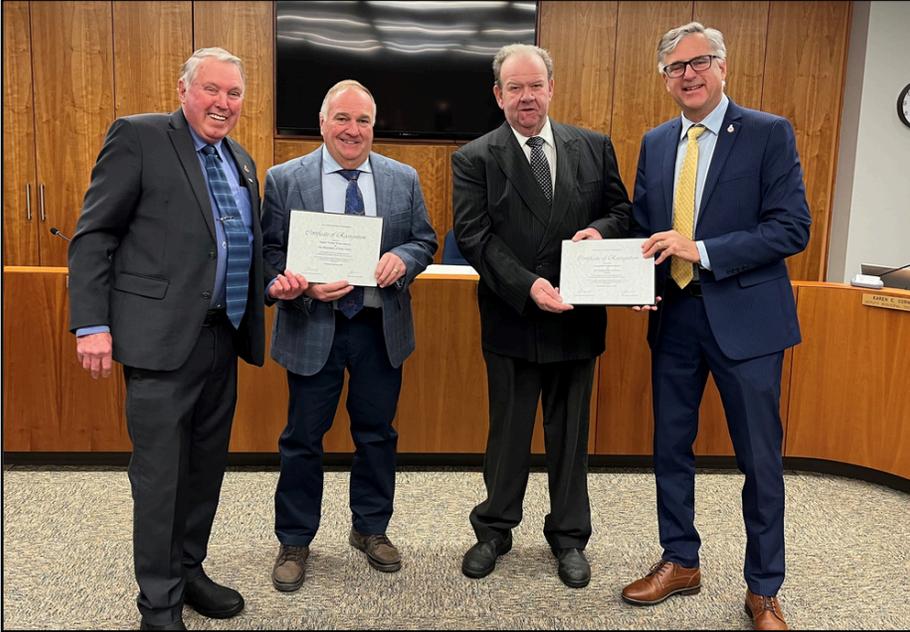
### Mailing Address

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

### Call Us

902-485-4311  
902-752-1530

# Marking milestones



Warden Robert Parker (left) presented Deputy Warden Wayne Murray and Councillor Chester Dewar with plaques from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities recognizing their years of service. Murray has been a councillor for 35 years and Dewar has been a councillor for 25 years. Councillor Andy Thompson (right) is the Municipality of Pictou County's NSFM board representative and assisted with the presentation.

## How can we help?

To report a problem with a streetlight please call 902-485-1201 or email [outages@municipict.ca](mailto: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>

## Low income tax exemption

The Municipality of Pictou County's Low Income Tax Exemption Application for 2026 is now available online at: [www.municipict.ca/council/grants-and-funding-sources](http://www.municipict.ca/council/grants-and-funding-sources).

**NOTE:** The deadline to apply is March 31, 2026.

## MOPC COUNCIL

### DISTRICT 1 JOE MACDONALD

902-754-8422

[JOE.MACDONALD@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:JOE.MACDONALD@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 2 DEBORAH WADDEN

902-752-1303

[DEBORAH.WADDEN@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:DEBORAH.WADDEN@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 3 DARLA MACKEIL

902-759-2792

[DARLA.MACKEIL@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:DARLA.MACKEIL@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 4 RONALD BAILLIE

782-440-6716

[RONALD.BAILLIE@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:RONALD.BAILLIE@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 5 WAYNE MURRAY

902-485-9194

[WAYNE.MURRAY@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:WAYNE.MURRAY@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 6 ROBERT PARKER

902-925-2240

[ROBERT.PARKER@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:ROBERT.PARKER@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 7 DONALD PARKER

902-485-4724

[DONALD.PARKER@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:DONALD.PARKER@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 8 LARRY TURNER

902-752-6741

[LARRY.TURNER@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:LARRY.TURNER@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 9 PETER BOYLES

902-759-7976

[PETER.BOYLES@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:PETER.BOYLES@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 10 RANDY PALMER

902-922-2277

[RANDY.PALMER@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:RANDY.PALMER@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 11 ANDY THOMPSON

902-754-0101

[ANDY.THOMPSON@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:ANDY.THOMPSON@MUNPICT.CA)

### DISTRICT 12 CHESTER DEWAR

902-923-2931

[CHESTER.DEWAR@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:CHESTER.DEWAR@MUNPICT.CA)

MOPC WEBSITE:

[WWW.MUNPICT.CA](http://WWW.MUNPICT.CA)

# Navigating a changing energy efficiency landscape with Switch MOPC

Over the past year, the home energy efficiency market has changed quickly. Major programs have closed or shifted, rebates have filled up, and financing options that many homeowners relied on are no longer available.

For many people, it has become harder to know what incentives still exist, which upgrades make sense, and where to start.

If this sounds familiar, the Switch MOPC program offers a local solution for homeowners in the Municipality of Pictou County. A key part of the program is access to the Energy Concierge team, whose job is to help you make sense of a changing and often confusing energy efficiency landscape.

You can call to speak directly with an Energy Concierge who acts as a single point of contact, stays up to date on available options, rebates, and program changes, and provides unbiased guidance. They can help you understand your home energy assessment, answer tricky questions, and support you as you decide on next steps.

Many homeowners wait to reach out because they feel they need to have everything figured out first.



In reality, the Energy Concierge team is there to help early on, before decisions are locked in and upgrades are completed. A short conversation at the beginning can help set a clear picture moving forward.

Alongside this guidance, Switch MOPC also offers municipal financing to cover upfront project costs for your home energy upgrade. With the Canada Greener Homes Loan no longer available, this option can be discussed as part of your conversation with an Energy Concierge to determine if it is right for your circumstances.

In summary, if you are interested in upgrading your home's energy efficiency or simply looking for answers to a few questions you have, the Switch MOPC program is here to support you. You can reach the program at (902) 601-1797, or by email at [info@switchmopc.ca](mailto:info@switchmopc.ca).

## 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	902-921-0884	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



Hikers take part in an Active Pictou County hosted hike on Fitzpatrick Mountain on Nov. 30, 2025. Upcoming hikes include a 6 p.m. March 4 hike at Acadia Park in Westville and 6 p.m. March 18 hike at Roy's Island Trail in Little Harbour. Follow Active Pictou County on Facebook to stay up to date on all upcoming hikes in our region. Photo by Issam Dahweir.

## Grant application period opens

Municipal Grant applications are now available. Municipal Grants are intended for non-profit sector and charitable organizations that provide community-based programs and services that replace, supplement, or complement our municipal mandate and benefit one or more council districts or the entire municipality.

Organizations looking for support from the Municipality of Pictou County in the form of a Municipal Grant have until Feb. 27, 2026 to submit a grant application.

Forms are available at [www.munpict.ca./council/grants-and-funding-sources](http://www.munpict.ca./council/grants-and-funding-sources).

## 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**.

# Property values continue to rise

## Residential up, commercial down in Pictou County

Property owners in Pictou County should soon receive their 2026 Assessment Notices by mail.

Assessments are conducted annually by Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC), the province's independent, municipally funded, not-for-profit assessment authority.

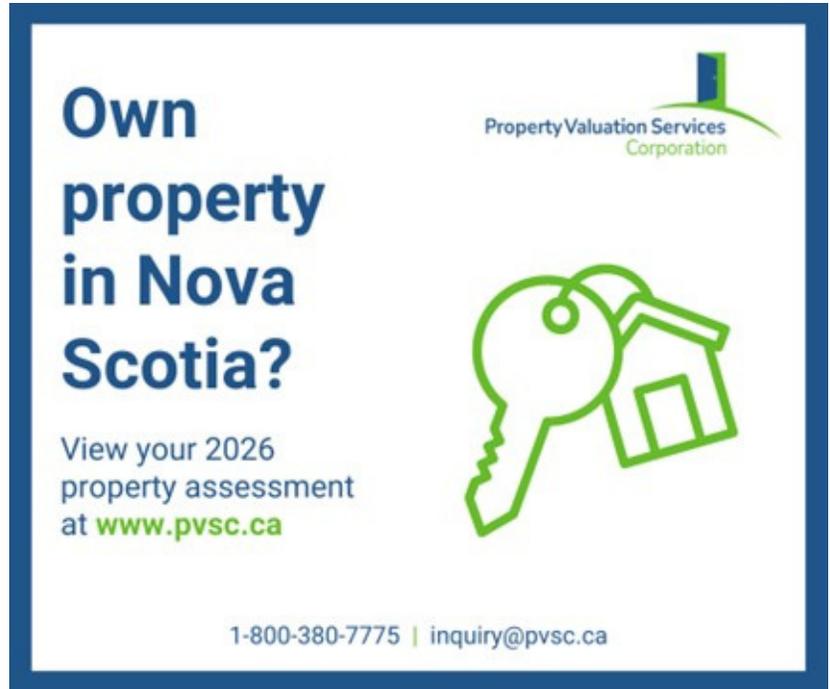
Values reflect market conditions as of Jan. 1, 2025, and the physical state of each property as of Dec. 1, 2025, including any renovations or demolitions. The Municipality of Pictou County has no influence over the process.

This year's Assessment Roll for Nova Scotia reaches \$206.3 billion - a growth of 8% over last year.

In Pictou County, residential assessments grew from \$3,248,649,800 to \$3,465,143,800. Commercial assessments dropped from \$370,832,600 to \$368,105,100. This brought the total assessment roll to \$3,833,248,900.

"The 2026 Roll reflects steady growth across residential and commercial markets in Nova Scotia," says Charlene MacNeil, Director of Assessment.

"Smaller, affordable options such as manufactured homes remain strong, while industrial parks and vacant land lead commercial growth. Apartments, condominiums, and other multi-unit properties - such as duplexes - are also experiencing notable growth, driven by new construction provincewide."



Own property in Nova Scotia?

View your 2026 property assessment at [www.pvsc.ca](http://www.pvsc.ca)

1-800-380-7775 | [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca)

Property Valuation Services Corporation



The Capped Assessment Program (CAP) rate is 2.6%, up from 1.5% last year. Approximately 72% of residential properties - 416,847 accounts - qualify for the CAP, which limits the amount the taxable assessed value can increase year over year.

## Got questions?

PVSC representatives and assessors are available to answer property owner questions at 1-800-380-7775 or [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca). For more information, visit [www.pvsc.ca](http://www.pvsc.ca).

## MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU

Category	2025	2026
1. Total Residential	3,248,649,800	3,465,143,800
2. Adjusted Total Residential with CAP Applied	2,307,278,400	2,455,343,500
3. Total Commercial	370,832,600	368,105,100
4. Total Assessment Roll	3,619,482,400	3,833,248,900

# Lots happening at Hillside Community Hall

## Friday Night Kitchen Party Is Back!

Great news! Our Friday Night Kitchen Party has returned after the Christmas break. Join us every Friday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for an evening filled with music, laughter, and community spirit.

General Admission: \$5.00  
Musicians: Free admission  
50/50 Draw: Held each week  
Light Lunch Served

Everyone is welcome! Come enjoy tunes from wonderfully talented local musicians and spend quality time with friends and neighbors.

## Monthly 50/50 Draw

Our monthly 50/50 draw continues the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Your support is greatly appreciated and plays an important role in helping keep our community hall thriving.

Cost to Play: \$10.00  
To Participate: Contact Morgan at 902-921-1118  
E-Transfer Available

The draw is recorded live and posted on our Facebook page.



## Hall Rentals

Looking for the perfect venue for your next event? Hillside Hall is available for rentals of all sizes — from small gatherings to larger celebrations. To inquire about availability or booking details, please contact Morgan at 902-921-1118.

The Hillside Society is always looking for new volunteers! If you have some time to give, we would love to have you join our team. It's a great way to support your community.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook at "Hillside Community Hall" for the latest updates, upcoming events, and important announcements.



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](mailto: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

Hi, I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season, and I extend my best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2026.

## District 9 - Roads and Infrastructure Update

The condition of many roads across District 9 is extremely concerning. This ongoing winter weather of snow, freezing rain and ice is making already poor road conditions even worse. I understand the frustration, safety concerns, and potential vehicle damage residents are experiencing. Please know that I share your concerns and frustration. The condition of our roads is not acceptable, and it remains a top priority for me to advocate for improvements.

I have requested a meeting with our Pictou East MLA, Tim Houston, many times. While I have received a written response outlining general road improvement plans, I am still awaiting confirmation of a date and time for an in-person meeting to further address these issues. Because most rural roads fall under provincial jurisdiction, meeting with our MLA and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal is necessary to push for meaningful action. I have now been waiting over a year for clear answers and some progress to take place.

At present, I am actively advocating for grading, gravelling, pothole repairs and ditching on District 9's unpaved roads. Improving safety and road conditions remains a priority, and I will continue to press for action. I will keep residents informed of what I learn. If you are experiencing road-related issues, please contact me directly. I will do my best to assist and ensure your concerns are brought forward.

Municipal Grant Applications for the 2026/27 fiscal period are now available. Completed applications must be submitted no later than February 27 to allow time for review and assessment in preparation for the 2026/27 General Operating Budget.

This process helps ensure that sufficient funding is allocated for community grant purposes. For more information or assistance, please contact: Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services, Municipality of the County of Pictou at 902-485-2238 or email - [sueann.musick@munpict.ca](mailto:sueann.musick@munpict.ca) 2256.

Our Rural Internet Project is progressing well and should be available to all of District 9 by mid-summer. Rural Internet Project information changes rapidly. The best place to keep up to date is at [www.mopcnetwork.ca](http://www.mopcnetwork.ca).

For general information, contact them at [info@mopcnetwork.ca](mailto:info@mopcnetwork.ca) or by phoning toll-free 1-833-727-2256-

## 2026 Property Assessment Notices

Property owners have now received their 2026 Property Assessment Notices. Under the Nova Scotia Assessment Act, properties are classified as residential, resource, or commercial based on their current use or intended use.

If you have questions about your assessment or believe there may be an error, you are encouraged to contact Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) for more information.

Assessors are available to discuss assessments, answer questions, and explain how your property value was determined. For assistance, please contact: [www.pvsc.ca](http://www.pvsc.ca) or phone 1-800-380-7775 or [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca)

## Thank you

On behalf of District 9, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Linacy Firefighters, the Women's Auxiliary, and their families for their outstanding volunteer service to our community. Your dedication and selfless commitment make a meaningful difference each and every day.

May the year ahead bring safe responses and continued success as you continue to educate and protect our community. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for everything you do.

I also encourage everyone to show their support for the Linacy Fire Department by participating in the Nova Scotia Firefighters Weekly 50/50 Draw. Every ticket purchased helps support our firefighters and the vital work they do to keep our communities safe.

I encourage you to reach out to me at any time with your municipal suggestions and concerns. I value your input, as it helps to make decisions on your behalf regarding municipal programs and services.

Again, wishing everyone all the best for 2026, and I look forward to continuing to work together.

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





MOPC

Senior Valet Service

FIBREFIRST



MOPC

Senior Valet Service

FirstHomeWireless



**Now Available Across the Network!**

MOPC Network Senior Valet Service was created to help our senior community stay confidently connected.

Our friendly local team comes right to your home to set up your internet, connect your devices, and make sure everything is working just the way you like it.

We take the time to walk you through each step, answer your questions, and ensure you feel comfortable using your technology.

With the Senior Valet Service, you're never on your own—we're here to lend a hand and keep you connected to family, friends, and the things you love.

**Call us to find out more: 833-727-2256**  
**Built By Us For Us**



### Coming Soon to the Network

**Pictou:** Murray Road, Harris Road

**Sutherlands River:** Hwy 4, School Rd,  
Old MacBeth Rd, Woodburn Rd,  
Ballantyne Dr, Thorburn Rd, Old Pine  
Tree Rd, Church Rd

**Kenzieville:** Hwy 4, Old Orchard Rd,  
Barneys River East Side, Robertson Rd,  
Manse Rd, G and B Williams Loop

**Lismore:** Shore Rd

**Blue Mountain:** Sherbrooke Road, Grist  
Mill Rd, Mountain Crescent Rd, J W  
McCulloch Rd, Blue Mountain Loop,  
McLennen Dr, Ross 5 Rd, Tower Rd,  
French River Rd

**Frasers Mountain:** Frasers Mountain  
Rd, Meadow Green Rd

### Connecting Communities in 2025

2025 was a truly meaningful year for us. As the MOPC Network reached more than 6,000 homes, the real highlight wasn't the growth — it was the people. Every installation, every conversation, and every visit reminded us why this project matters: staying connected to what and who we care about.

While expanding our network was important, what mattered most was building trust, supporting neighbours, and showing up for our communities in ways that go beyond technology.

One of our most meaningful initiatives in 2025 was the launch of the Senior Valet Program. Designed to support older adults who may face mobility, transportation, or technology challenges, the program helps seniors stay connected, independent, and confident.

### Looking Ahead to 2026

In 2026, we're bringing even more ways for our communities to stay connected:

- New FibreFirst features designed to enhance reliability and performance
- TV and home phone services for a better, more seamless experience
- Major improvements to FirstHome Wireless, bringing fibre-like speeds to more rural homes than ever before

**Built By Us For Us isn't just a tagline — it's the heart of what we're building together.**

Stay up to date at [MOPCNetwork.ca](https://www.MOPCNetwork.ca).



# Skating in Pictou County

## 2025-2026 Free Skates Schedule

### Monday

#### Trenton Minor Sports Community Centre

- Adult/Senior Leisure Skate: 12:00PM-1:30PM

#### Pictou County Wellness Centre

- Parent & Tot Skate: 10:00AM-11:00AM
- Adult/Senior Skate: 11:00 AM-1:00PM

### Wednesday

#### Trenton Minor Sports Community Centre

- Adult/Senior Leisure Skate: 12:00PM-1:30PM

#### Pictou County Wellness Centre

- Parent & Tot Skate: 10:00AM-11:00AM
- Adult/Senior Skate: 11:00AM-1:00PM

### Friday

#### Trenton Minor Sports Community Centre

- Adult/Senior Leisure Skate: 12:00PM-1:30PM
- After-School Skate: 3:00PM-4:00PM

#### Pictou County Wellness Centre

- Parent & Tot Skate: 10:00AM-11:00AM
- Adult/Senior Skate: 11:00AM-1:00PM

*For updates, cancellations, or holiday changes, please check your local town/arena's website or social media.*

### Tuesday

#### Hector Arena (Pictou)

- Adult/Senior Skate: 2:00PM-3:00PM

#### Pictou County Wellness Centre

- Parent & Tot Skate: 10:00AM-11:00AM
- Adult/Senior Skate: 11:00AM-1:00PM

### Thursday

#### Hector Arena (Pictou)

- Adult/Senior Skate: 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

#### Pictou County Wellness Centre

- Parent & Tot Skate: 10:00AM-11:00AM
- Adult/Senior Skate: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

### Saturday

#### Pictou County Wellness Centre

- Family Leisure Skate: 4:00PM-6:00PM

#### Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena (Thorburn)

- Public Open Skate: 4:00PM-5:00PM

### Sunday

#### Trenton Minor Sports Community Centre

- Parent-Child Skating: 4:30PM-5:30PM

#### Westville Miners Sports Center

- Public Open Skate: 6:30PM-7:20PM

# Public engagement

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

### PICTOU COUNTY AGRICULTURE POLICY

The Municipality is developing a new land use policy for agricultural lands in MOPC in order to meet Provincial requirements. Join us for a discussion in your community to provide your input and help shape the future of our agricultural lands.

#### Upcoming Sessions:

- **Monday, February 23, 6:30-8pm**  
Eureka Fire Hall  
5222 Stellarton Trafalgar Rd.
- **Wednesday, February 25, 6:30-8pm**  
Scotsburn Fire Hall  
4179 Scotsburn Rd.
- **Tuesday, February 24, 6:30-8pm**  
River John Legion  
506 River John Station Rd.
- **Thursday, February 26, 6:30-8pm**  
Merigomish Community Centre  
1682 Shore Rd.



 For more information about the project, scan the QR code or visit: [speakupland.ca/pictou-county-agriculture](https://speakupland.ca/pictou-county-agriculture)

**W.E.B**  
sweb.energy

## JOIN US FOR OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION FOR THE PROPOSED SUGAR MAPLE WIND ENERGY PROJECT!

Where: The Garden Of Eden Community Centre

When: February 24 (Tuesday), 2026

Time: 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM (Drop-in)

Address: 28 Garden of Eden Church Loop

Pictou, NS, B2H 5C8



# NEWSLETTER

## Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Meetings

IESO Nova Scotia hosted the first Community Liaison Committee (CLC) meetings for the proposed Salt Springs and Marshdale Fast-Acting Natural Gas Power Generation Projects at the end of January and early February, bringing together community members to share information, provide updates, and hear directly from local perspectives.

The meeting agenda included a review of the CLC Terms of Reference, an update on Environmental Assessment (EA) registration and timelines, site investigations, the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) process, and a discussion on community benefits, jobs, and economic development.

They were great discussions, with thoughtful questions and valuable community insights shared. Topics included, among others, water, sound, site location, emissions, project justification, and the sources of natural gas for the Projects. IESO Nova Scotia shared details of ongoing groundwater aquifer testing at both sites and anticipate the testing will be completed in the coming months - results of the testing will be shared at that time. The CLC also discussed the Environmental Assessment process and opportunities for community input.

We would like to thank all CLC members for taking the time to participate and for bringing forward such constructive community questions and perspectives.

## Environmental Assessment Registration

Both the Marshdale and Salt Springs Projects were formally registered for provincial and federal environmental assessment review on December 22, 2025. The public comment period closed on **February 9, 2026**, and Ministerial decision on the Provincial review is expected on or before **February 19, 2026**. Environmental Assessment documents remain available online and in hard copy for community reference.

IESO Nova Scotia also attended the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's (IAAC) virtual public information sessions and would like to thank community members and Mi'kmaw organizations who participated and shared their questions.

- Provincial Environmental Assessment (NSECC)
  - **Marshdale:** <https://novascotia.ca/nse/ea/fangpgf-marshdale/>
  - **Salt Springs:** <https://novascotia.ca/nse/ea/fangpgf-salt-springs/>
- Federal Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC):
  - **Marshdale:** <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/90111>
  - **Salt Springs:** <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/90114>

Hard copies of the Provincial EA documents can also be found at John's Country Canteen (Salt Springs EA), the Hopewell Post Office (Marshdale EA), and the Municipality of Pictou County Administrative Building (both EAs).

## Local and Mi'kmaw Business Directory

We are committed to hiring as many local and Mi'kmaw resources as possible, and are currently compiling a business and skilled worker directory. Feel free to reach out to us at [community@ieso-ns.ca](mailto:community@ieso-ns.ca) to share your business information. This information will be shared with the successful proponent, who is required to prioritize local and Mi'kmaw benefits and hiring.

We are also working closely with the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce and plan to host a business "After Hours" networking session in the near future, so stay tuned for more details.

## Updated Timeline - Request for Proposal (RFP) for Proponent

The Request for Proposal (RFP) to select an entity to design, build, own, and operate the facility is now expected to be launched in March 2026, with a preferred proponent anticipated to be selected in July 2026. We currently have a list of interested bidders following the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) process that was launched in the Fall.

IESO Nova Scotia will continue to keep the community informed throughout this process and will introduce the selected proponent once they are chosen.

# Citizen Appointments 2026-2028

The Municipality of the County of Pictou currently has vacancies for the following volunteer positions:

## **Accessibility Advisory Committee (8 positions)**

Two-Year Term, April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2028

The Accessibility Advisory Committee provides advice to the municipal council on identifying, preventing, and eliminating barriers to people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives and facilities. The committee plays a pivotal role in helping the Municipality of Pictou County to become an accessible community that complies with Nova Scotia's Act (2017). At least half of the members of the advisory committee must have a disability or represent an organization that represents people with disabilities. Disability includes a physical, mental, intellectual, learning, or sensory impairment— including an episodic disability—that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders an individual's full and effective participation in society.

## **Municipal Audit Committee (3 positions)**

Two-Year Term, April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2028

The Committee is responsible for reviewing the qualifications, independence, quality of service and performance of External Auditors, and to recommend to Council the appointment or discharge of External Auditors. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing the financial statements of the Municipality, evaluating internal control systems and management letters and carrying out all responsibilities as outlined in Section 44(2) of the Municipal Government Act. Applicants must demonstrate a strong financial background and knowledge of accounting practices and audit routine. The Committee will meet 4 times annually.

## **Climate Change Advisory Committee (1 position)**

Two-Year term, April 1st, 2026 -March 31, 2028

The Committee is responsible for advising the Municipal Council, Administration & Consultant/Project Management Team on specific matters as they pertain to the Municipality's Climate Change Adaptation Plan by fostering and promoting environmental and climate change awareness, partnerships within the community, and community engagement.

## **Hector Arena Commission Board of Directors (1 position)**

Two-Year term, April 1st, 2026 - March 31, 2028

The Board is responsible for the management & operation of the Hector Arena.

## **Planning Advisory Committee (1 position)**

Two Year term, April 1st, 2026 - March 31, 2028

The Committee is responsible for advising the Municipal Council respecting the preparation or amendment of planning documents and planning matters generally.

## **Police Advisory Board (1 position)**

Two-Year Term, April 1st, 2026 - March 31, 2028

The Board is responsible for providing advice to the Municipal Council in relation to the enforcement of law, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime in the Municipality. The Board does not have jurisdiction relating to complaints, discipline, personnel conduct or the internal management of the RCMP. Successful applicants will be required to undergo appropriate security clearances.

## **Riverton Guest Home Corporation Board of Directors (1 position)**

Two Year term, April 1st, 2026 - March 31, 2028

The Board is responsible for the management & operation of Valley View Villa.

Residents of the Municipality interested in these positions should submit a letter of application electronically to [sueann.musick@munpict.ca](mailto:sueann.musick@munpict.ca) no later than February 28th, 2026. To be considered eligible for consideration, applicants must be residents of the Municipality and must have lived in the Municipality for a minimum of six (6) months. Applications should include a brief biography which details any previous or related experience and skills that would be an asset to these positions, and must supply three professional and/or volunteer-related references. These positions require a flexible work schedule to accommodate daytime and/or evening meetings.





# WASTE REDUCTION SORTING GUIDE

Visit [www.pcwastemgmt.com](http://www.pcwastemgmt.com) or download the Pictou County Solid Waste app for a complete listing of what goes where.

<p><b>GREEN CART ORGANICS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Food Waste</li> <li>Cooking Oil &amp; Fat</li> <li>Parchment Paper</li> <li>Coffee Filters and Tea Bags</li> <li>Soiled Napkins and Paper Towels</li> <li>Leaves, Brush and Plants</li> <li>Cat Litter</li> <li>Uncoated Paper Plates and Bowls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No plastic bags, including those labelled "compostable" or "biodegradable"</li> <li>NO ashes</li> <li>NO glass or metals</li> <li>NO milk cartons</li> <li>NO diapers, wipers or personal hygiene products</li> </ul>
<p><b>BLUE BAG 1 RECYCLABLE CONTAINERS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Plastic Food Containers and Bags</li> <li>Hot and Cold Beverage Cups (Lids removed, same bag)</li> <li>Milk and Yogurt Containers (Lids on)</li> <li>Glass Bottles &amp; Jars (Lids off, same bag)</li> <li>Aluminum Foil and Plates, Tin Cans</li> <li>Ice Cream Tubs, Frozen Juice and Coffee Cans</li> <li>Soap, Detergent and Deodorant Containers, Toothpaste Tubes</li> <li>All Refundable Beverage Containers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be EMPTY and CLEAN</li> <li>NO paper</li> <li>NO plastic cutlery or straws</li> <li>Refundable Beverage Containers can be returned to an Enviro-Depot™</li> </ul>
<p><b>BLUE BAG 2 RECYCLABLE PAPER</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cereal and Cracker Boxes, Paper Towel Rolls</li> <li>Paper Egg Cartons, Take-Out Bags &amp; Coffee Trays</li> <li>Newsprint, Flyers &amp; Magazines</li> <li>Paper (Shredded too)</li> <li>Potato, Flour and Pet Food Bags</li> <li>Wrapping Paper, Gift Bags and Tissue Paper</li> <li>Cardboard (Flattened &amp; Bundled 2ft x 2ft)</li> <li>Envelopes (Without Bubble Liner)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be CLEAN and DRY</li> <li>NO plastic</li> <li>NO disposable cups</li> <li>Place flattened and bundled cardboard next to your blue bag at the curb</li> </ul>
<p><b>GARBAGE CLEAR BAGS (+1 PRIVACY BAG)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Cutlery &amp; Straws</li> <li>Disposable Wipes</li> <li>Diapers &amp; Personal Hygiene Products</li> <li>Coffee Pods</li> <li>Compostable Plastics</li> <li>Broken Toys (Not Containing Batteries)</li> <li>Ceramic Dishes, Pots and Pans</li> <li>Used Tissues</li> <li>Paint Brushes, Pens and Markers</li> <li>Broken Glass (Safely Packaged, labelled and placed beside clear bag)</li> </ul>	<p>Download our app "Pictou County Solid Waste" to receive collection &amp; event notifications</p>
<p><b>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)</b></p>	<p>HHW materials can be dropped off at the Pictou County Solid Waste Facility during regular hours</p> <p><b>OTHER</b></p> <p><b>Electronics</b> Many electronics can be dropped off for recycling. See locations and accepted items: <a href="http://recycleMYelectronics.ca/ns">recycleMYelectronics.ca/ns</a></p> <p><b>Batteries</b> Drop off at any Town or Municipal Office in Pictou County</p> <p><b>Clothes/Textiles</b> Donate old clothes, shoes and textiles at donation bins across Pictou County</p> <p><b>Medications/Sharps</b> Return to pharmacy. Pick up safe sharps container at the pharmacy</p>	