

# The MOPC Spotlight

E-newsletter

January 2026



Hikers take part in an Active Pictou County hike on Fitzpatrick Mountain on Nov. 30, 2025. Photo by Issam Dahweir

# Environmental Assessment Registration Notice

## Marshdale & Salt Springs Natural Gas Power Projects

On Dec. 22, 2025, IESO Nova Scotia registered the proposed Marshdale and Salt Springs fast-acting natural gas power generation facilities with Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) for provincial environmental assessment, and with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) for federal impact assessment screening.

Each Project would involve a fast-acting natural gas facility of up to 300 MW, including turbines and associated infrastructure, to supply electricity to the Nova Scotia power grid. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027, with operations expected to continue for at least 30 years.

### Project Locations

- Marshdale: Near Lorne, Hopewell, and Eureka, Pictou County
- Salt Springs: Near Limerock, Six Mile Brook, and Central West River, Pictou County

### Public Viewing Locations

Marshdale Environmental Assessment may be reviewed at:

- Hopewell Canada Post Office, 4628 Trafalgar Road, Hopewell
- Municipality of Pictou County Administration Building, 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou
- NSECC Regional Office, 20 Pumphouse Rd., Granton
- NSECC EA website

Salt Springs Environmental Assessment may be reviewed at:

- John's Country Canteen, 3318 NS-4, Salt Springs
- Municipality of Pictou County Administration Building, 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou
- NSECC Regional Office, 20 Pumphouse Rd., Granton
- NSECC EA website



## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGISTRATION NOTICE

### Marshdale & Salt Springs Natural Gas Power Projects

Learn more at [ieso-ns.ca](http://ieso-ns.ca)



### Public Comment Period

Written comments may be submitted to NSECC on or before February 9, 2026, and to IAAC at [www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/](http://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/).

For more information, contact NSECC at 902-424-3600 or [EA@novascotia.ca](mailto:EA@novascotia.ca).

### Contact the Municipality of Pictou County

Physical Address	Office Hours	Mailing Address	Call Us
46 Municipal Drive Pictou, N.S. B0K 1H0	Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	P.O. Box 910 Pictou, N.S. B0K 1H0	902-485-4311 902-752-1530

# Reporting deadline for 2025 grants

If you received a grant from the Municipality of Pictou County valued at \$1,000 or more you must return a reporting form and corresponding information by Jan. 31, 2026. This includes both Municipal Council Grants and Municipal Service Grants.

The form is available on our website at: [www.munpict.ca./council/grants-and-funding-sources](http://www.munpict.ca./council/grants-and-funding-sources).

If a reporting form is not returned by this date, it could jeopardize your chance of being considered for future grants from the municipality

## Low income tax exemption

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

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



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.

## Grant application period opens for 2026

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).

# How can we help?

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

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

# 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 role 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)

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.

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

**Appeal Deadline:** The deadline to appeal your 2026 property assessment is Feb. 12, 2026. Your signed appeal must be received no later than midnight on Feb. 12, 2026.

### 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

# WE'RE HIRING!

- **Building Official**
- **Assistant Director of Emergency Management & Public Safety**
- **Manager of Revenue**

To learn more about these positions and how to apply visit [www.munpict.ca/departments-and-services/employment/](http://www.munpict.ca/departments-and-services/employment/)

## 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



# REGISTRATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> 3PM-4PM

TRENTON RINK ANNEX

FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES PRIMARY & 1

5 SPORTS, 1 REGISTRATION

HOCKEY, KARATE, GOLF, VOLLEYBALL & BASEBALL!

Cost: \$100

Cash or Cheque or Debit Only

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE THROUGH JUMPSTART, KIDSPORT  
& THE GO PLAY FUND

# 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

# Winter Guided Hikes

## *Make Your Move Outdoors!*

February 11 6:00 p.m.  
Trenton Park, Trenton  
5 km, 75 minutes

January 21 6:00 p.m.  
Samson Trail, New Glasgow  
5 km, 75 minutes

March 4 6:00 p.m.  
Acadia Park, Westville  
3 km, 45 minutes

March 18 6:00 p.m.  
Roy Island Trail, Little Harbour  
5 km, 75 minutes

Join us for one of four winter  
guided hikes to get outdoors and  
move your body this winter!

To register, contact Melanie at  
[melanie.dash@westville.ca](mailto:melanie.dash@westville.ca) or 902-396-1059



# 2025 MOPC Capital Highlights

## Completed

- Blue Acres Sidewalks
- Hopewell Sidewalk Revitalization
- Municipal Building Renovations
- West Pictou Drainage Improvements
- Various Streetlights
- Various Residential Sewer Pumps
- Hidden Cove Road Entrance Paving



## Ongoing

- McLellan's Brook/Coalburn Water Extension
- EREC Flow Meter Installation
- Hillside Sewer System Improvements
- Abercrombie Sidewalk Revitalization
- Pumping Station Repairs



## 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.**