

The MOPC Spotlight

E-newsletter



March 2026



The West River in Pictou County showed signs of thawing on March 16 with ice beginning to subside.

Need Some TLC?

PARL launches The Library Club

This April, the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, with financial support from the Aberdeen Health Foundation, is launching a new monthly club for older adults.

Called TLC, short for The Library Club, this free recurring program will offer club members a chance to gather with others, learn some new things, and take part in interesting activities.

“We are looking for people who want to get out, meet others, and have some fun. Your local public library is the perfect spot,” explains Melissa Marshall, Club Coordinator.

There will be four chapters of the Library Club in Pictou County, one at each of the following four libraries, New Glasgow, Pictou, River John, and Westville.

Interested people are asked to call their local library and register. The Library Club will meet at the same time each month. If getting to and from the library is a problem, free transportation will be arranged.

Each monthly meeting of The Library Club will have a different theme, but include presenters on interesting topics, hands-on activities, time to meet with library staff, and have some light refreshments.



Gina Snell (left), Westville Branch Assistant in Charge and Melissa Marshall (centre), TLC Club Coordinator, chat with library user Donna Chisholm (right) about The Library Club - TLC.

Everything is free and there are no costs to join. This is all part of a larger partnership between the Regional Library and the Aberdeen Health Foundation called Healthy Libraries – Healthy Communities.

It is well understood that social opportunities lead to better overall health outcomes. Public libraries are well positioned to provide these opportunities. With support from community partners like the Aberdeen Health Foundation, the

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is excited to do so. For more information about the Healthy Libraries-Healthy Communities project, please visit <https://aberdeenhealthfoundation.ca/news/PARL/>.

To register, call your local public library or our toll-free number 1-866-779-7761. You can also visit www.parl.ns.ca.

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

BurnSafe 101

The BurnSafe map is your guide to when it's safe to burn in Nova Scotia during wildfire season, **March 15 to October 15**.



-  **GREEN** = burning is allowed after 2 pm.
-  **YELLOW** = burning is allowed after 7 pm.
-  **RED** = no burning is allowed.

Burning is never allowed from 8 am to 2 pm during wildfire season because that is often when the risk of wildfires is greatest. **The map is RED during those hours.** After 2 pm, **check for an update.**

Burn restrictions are **updated daily at 2 pm** based on weather data.



Check online at NovaScotia.ca/BurnSafe or call **1-855-564-2876** to see if burning is allowed.

How can we help?

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

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

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.

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



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.



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

Updates from IESO Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia's independent energy system operator, or IESO Nova Scotia, is a not-for-profit created by provincial law to take over operation of the electricity grid from NS Power on behalf of Nova Scotians.

The organization will be responsible for planning for the province's future needs, procuring new electricity generation sources, and dispatching power from producers. We are independent of governments, utilities, and power producers, meaning decisions won't be driven by profit, but by Nova Scotians' needs.

On March 4, IESO Nova Scotia's CEO and Procurement & Project Manager attended a meeting of Council's Committee of the Whole to present an update and answer questions on the proposed fast-acting electricity generation projects in Salt Springs and Marshdale. We were pleased to have been invited to present again to Council, and to respond to concerns and discuss the significant work, permitting, and engagement still to come.

At the Council presentation, IESO Nova Scotia covered a wide range of topics about the project, including what the province's electricity system needs to stay reliable for the coming decades, the work that has been done on the proposed fast-acting generation project so far, and the many steps still to come. IESO Nova Scotia's presentation can be found [here](#).

These proposed facilities are a critical component of the province's energy mix:

- To fulfill the Government of Nova Scotia's Clean Power Plan to eliminate coal and transition to 80% renewable energy by 2030.
- To provide a fast-acting, reliable source of electricity generation that keeps the lights on when renewables can't meet demand (like a cold snap or heat wave).
- To significantly reduce the province's greenhouse gas emissions, with natural gas emitting 55% less than coal plants currently in use.
- To deliver reliable, sustainable electricity to Nova Scotians at the best possible cost.

We share Council's values for transparency and dialogue with Pictou County residents. IESO Nova Scotia will continue to engage through our two Community Liaison Committees, as well as through our upcoming community Office Hours, where project staff will be available to answer questions about the proposed projects.

Office Hours will be held in the Council Chambers at the Municipality of Pictou County on March 18 and March 25 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Pictou County residents can also email questions and concerns to community@ieso-ns.ca.



Office Hours

2 PM to 6 PM

Council Chambers

MOPC Admin

Building

46 Municipal Drive,

Pictou



Pictou County
**Community
Health Centre**

25B Front Street, Pictou

When you need help finding care, start with us

We can help you **access** Primary Health Care and **connect** you to the services and programs you need to achieve your best possible health.



Do you have health needs that are unmet because you do not know where to go?



Do you need help with forms for healthcare, dental, insurance, government programs, and more?



Do you know what supports are available to you for medical transportation, homecare, housing, food, jobs, healthcare, recreation, mental health, and more?

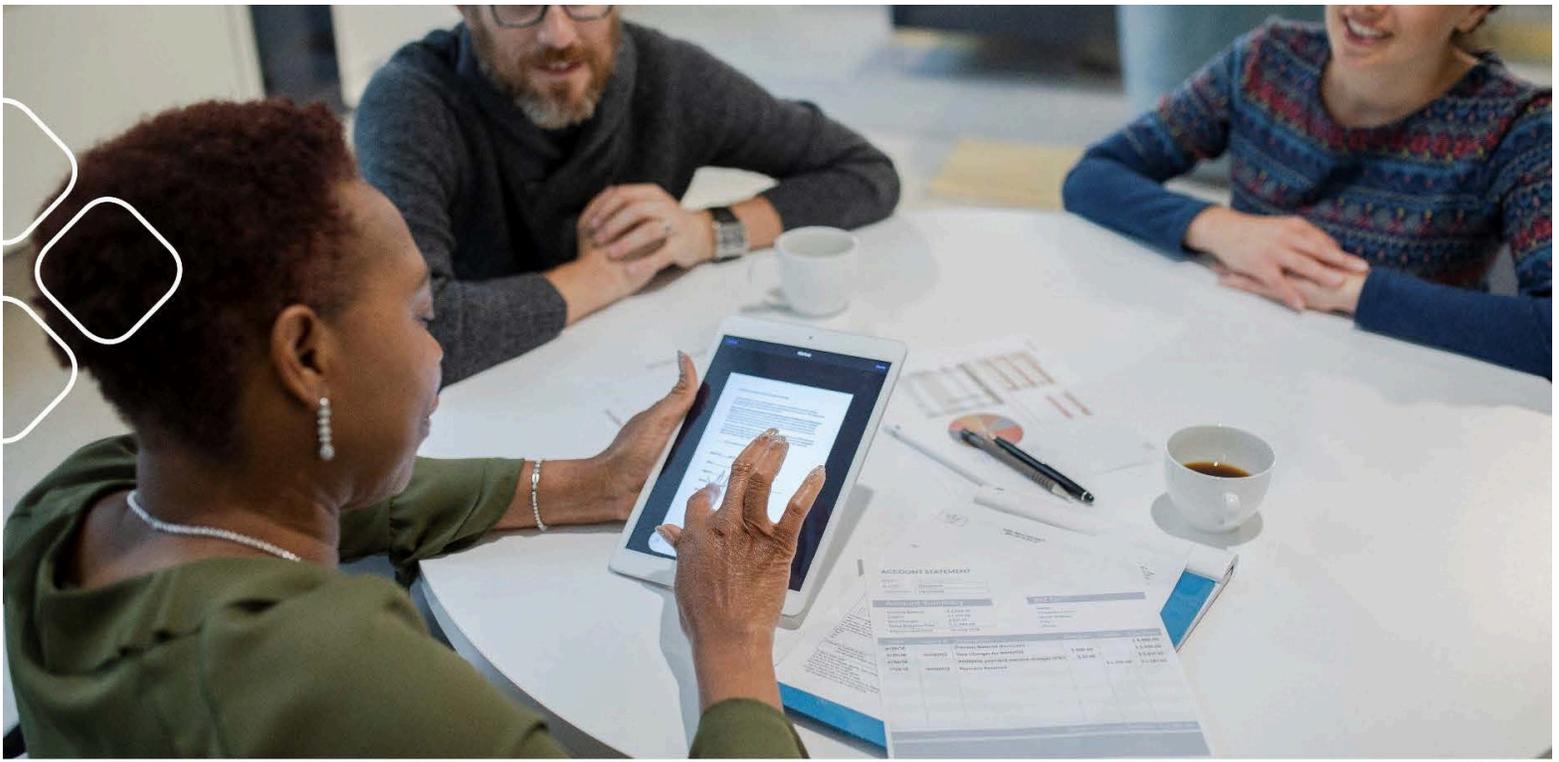
Call or text to book an appointment **902-616-2142**



Follow us on **Facebook**



Visit our Website **pictoucountychc.ca**



New Glasgow Free Tax-Help Super Clinic

Need help doing your taxes and accessing your benefits? If you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, volunteers may be able to do your taxes for free!

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Location: Community Room at the Pictou County Wellness Center (2-2756 Westville Rd, Westville)

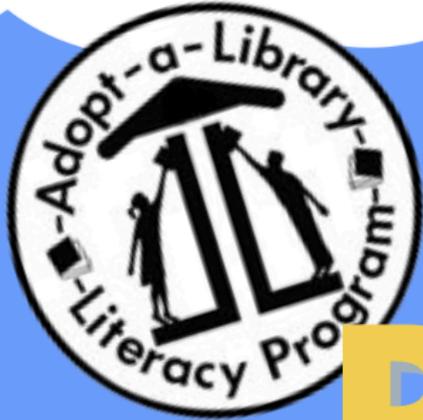
The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program will be filing income tax and benefit returns for free for modest income individuals and families with a simple tax situation.

Canada Revenue Agency will be onsite with information about the benefits and credits you may receive.

Service Canada will be available to issue Social Insurance Numbers, Canada Dental Care Plan (CDCP) applications, Canada Disability Benefit applications, and provide general information on Service Canada programs including Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, and more.

Go to canada.ca/taxes-help or call **1-866-837-1531** for more information.





BIG BOOK GIVING DAY

All are welcome to drop-in, and pick up
some free children's books for home.

**Wednesday March 25,
2026
10am to 5pm
New Glasgow Library**

**All welcome!
& we'll have fun activities,
hot chocolate, cookies, & more!**



Pictou-Antigonish
Regional Library
www.parl.ns.ca



For more information,
call 902-755-6031
or visit www.parl.ns.ca

Tax Sale Notice

The MOPC is holding a tax sale. Bids must
be received by April 10, 2026. To learn more,
visit www.munpict.ca



Jitney Trail Winter Guided Hike

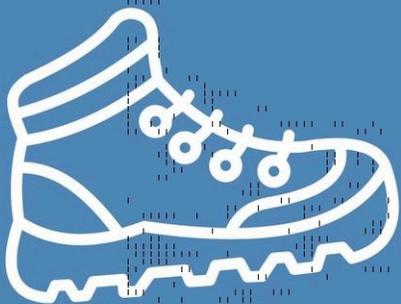
Wednesday, March 18

6:00 p.m.

Jitney Trail, Pictou

Meet behind the DeCoste Centre (99 Water Street)

The group will hike 5km on a mixture of hard-packed and paved surface with no obstacles, no stairs and little change in elevation. The hike will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete.



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

To register, contact Melanie at melanie.dash@westville.ca or 902-396-1059.

