

The MOPC Spotlight

E-newsletter



May 2026



This young female Minke Whale was found dead on a beach in Cape John. Marine Animal Response Society (MARS) conducted a necropsy and believe the whale likely beached herself and died on the beach. If anyone finds a beached whale living or deceased, they can contact MARS at 1-866-567-6277.

Welcome to the MOPC team



The MOPC is pleased to announce that Carrie Falconer has joined our finance department as a Tax Administration Clerk. Please join us in welcoming her to the team!

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**.



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

MOPC COUNCIL

DISTRICT 1 JOE MACDONALD

902-754-8422

JOE.MACDONALD@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 2 DEBORAH WADDEN

902-752-1303

DEBORAH.WADDEN@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 3 DARLA MACKEIL

902-759-2792

DARLA.MACKEIL@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 4 RONALD BAILLIE

782-440-6716

RONALD.BAILLIE@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 5 WAYNE MURRAY

902-485-9194

WAYNE.MURRAY@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 6 ROBERT PARKER

902-925-2240

ROBERT.PARKER@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 7 DONALD PARKER

902-485-4724

DONALD.PARKER@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 8 LARRY TURNER

902-752-6741

LARRY.TURNER@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 9 PETER BOYLES

902-759-7976

PETER.BOYLES@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 10 RANDY PALMER

902-922-2277

RANDY.PALMER@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 11 ANDY THOMPSON

902-754-0101

ANDY.THOMPSON@MUNPICT.CA

DISTRICT 12 CHESTER DEWAR

902-923-2931

CHESTER.DEWAR@MUNPICT.CA

Ruth Thompson is MOPC Volunteer of the Year

After decades of service to her community, Ruth Thompson has been named the Municipality of Pictou County's Volunteer of the Year for 2026.

Warden Robert Parker presented Ruth the award during the annual Volunteer Celebration on April 21 at the Pictou County Wellness Centre.

Ruth may have spent most of her life in Plymouth, but during her acceptance speech, she acknowledged she's a "come-from-away." She moved to Plymouth from Edmonton, Alberta, in the late 60s. Almost immediately, she began helping in the community.

"Volunteering gave me an outlet to meet people, to form life-long friendships, and it gave me a satisfying sense of accomplishment," she said. "It grounded me in my community."

As a 30-year-old mother of four, she became a trustee of Plymouth School. When the school became surplus following the opening of Dr. W.A. MacLeod Elementary in 1974, she saw opportunity instead of decline. So she organized a meeting to form a community non-profit to own and operate the former school. For \$1,500, it was theirs.

She served on the board extensively from 1977 through the mid-1980s, and again from 2009 until January 2026 during a period of rebuilding and growth.

During much of that time, she served as Secretary-Treasurer, managing bookkeeping, correspondence, scheduling and facility operations. Her strong organizational skills and steady leadership helped ensure the Community Centre remained open and active through many years of change.

Community members credit Ruth's commitment with keeping the Centre open and thriving through decades of change. Even into her 80s, she remained actively involved, demonstrating remarkable dedication and reliability.

Today, the Plymouth Community Centre is a fully accessible, net-zero community building. Her legacy continues as the Centre undergoes renovations to become a daycare facility opening in 2026, reflecting the lasting impact of her work.

Ruth thanked the other volunteers who helped make the Plymouth Community Centre what it is today, and the newly elected board who will continue the work she started.

She closed with a message for younger generations: "Get off social media. Get off your phone and get involved. You can make a difference!"

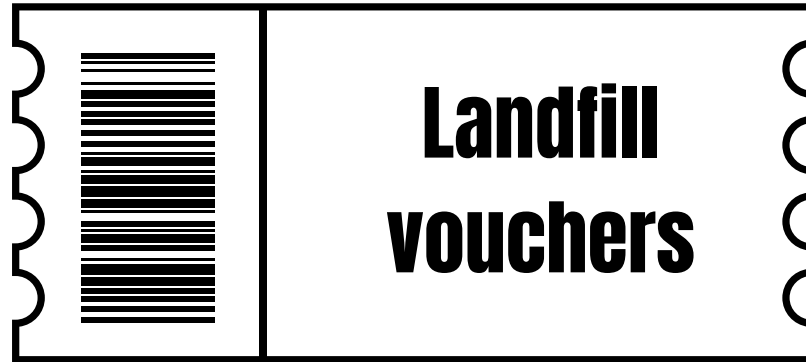


Warden Robert Parker with MOPC volunteer of the year Ruth Thompson.

2026 Volunteer of the Year Nominees

- Evan Baillie of Scotsburn
 - Linda Baird of Greenhill
 - Carol-Anne (Annie) Ferguson of Scotsburn
 - Ann Foote of Merigomish
 - Gord Galvin of Scotsburn
 - Gerard Halfyard of Pictou County
 - Alena Martin of Millsville
 - John "Johnny" Robinson of Hardwood Hill
 - Len Thomas of Lyon's Brook
 - Ruth Thompson of Plymouth
 - Wayne and Amanda Van Veen of Churchville
 - Colene Williams of Barney's River
- Youth Volunteers Recognized
- Alexis Buchanan of Pictou County
 - Karma Closet Crew from Northumberland Regional High School

Now available



Landfill Vouchers from the MOPC will be available from May 1 to Nov. 30, 2026.

Vouchers are given free of charge to people who own homes or cottages in rural Pictou County. Vacant landowners, woodlot owners, etc., do not qualify for such vouchers.

Vouchers can be picked up in person at the MOPC Admin Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. from May 1 to Nov. 30.

Staff will also mail them to those who request them during the availability period.

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 |

How to pay your taxes

You can pay your property tax or water bills online through your bank by following these instructions:

To begin, you must have a separate payee for each: taxes and water.



Each individual account number must be entered when making a payment.

Property Taxes

Go to "Add Payee"

Search "Pictou"

Select "Pictou County Taxes"

Add all 8 digits of your Municipal Account number

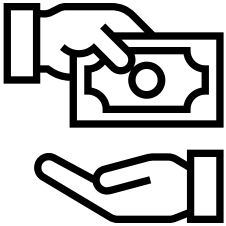
Water Utility

Go to "Add Payee"

Search "Pictou"

Select "Pictou County Water"

Add all 8 digits of your Municipal Account number



Visit our administration building Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to pay your bill in person.

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



The MOPC hosted an Emergency Preparedness Week Event on May 5. Speakers shared about how to prepare a 72-hour safety kit, the impacts climate change is having on our region, fire safety and more during the two-hour event. Pictured is Climate Change Specialist Emily Hodgson, who shared about how to pack a 72-hour safety kit.



Ann Munro joined Warden Robert Parker at the May 4 Council Meeting to read a proclamation recognizing May as Gaelic Nova Scotia Month. Warden Parker read an English version of the proclamation while Ann read the proclamation in Gaelic.

Considering accessibility upgrades for your community centre?



This time of year is a great chance to talk with your councillor to see if your organization might qualify for a municipal service grant to help cover the cost of an accessibility upgrade.

Watch www.munpict.ca for Ratepayer Meeting dates.

Mindful Movement Series



5-WEEK SERIES FOCUSING ON MOVEMENT, NUTRITION,
AND MINDFULNESS

Who? Anyone can register; focus is for people 50+ looking to increase their physical activity

What to expect?

40 minutes of low impact chair exercise and information about eating well, nutrition, healthy movement, mindfulness, mental health and more!

Where? Pictou Library
99 Water Street, Pictou

When? Mondays from
May 25th to June 22nd, 2026
10:00-11:30am

Cost? FREE
Registration is required



Supported by:



Murray Family Public Library
PICTOU-ANTIGONISH REGIONAL LIBRARY

CONTACT US

For more information or to register
call Anna Galvin, RSW
(902) 752-7600 ext 7854
or email anna.galvin@nshealth.ca



Tick Check Basics

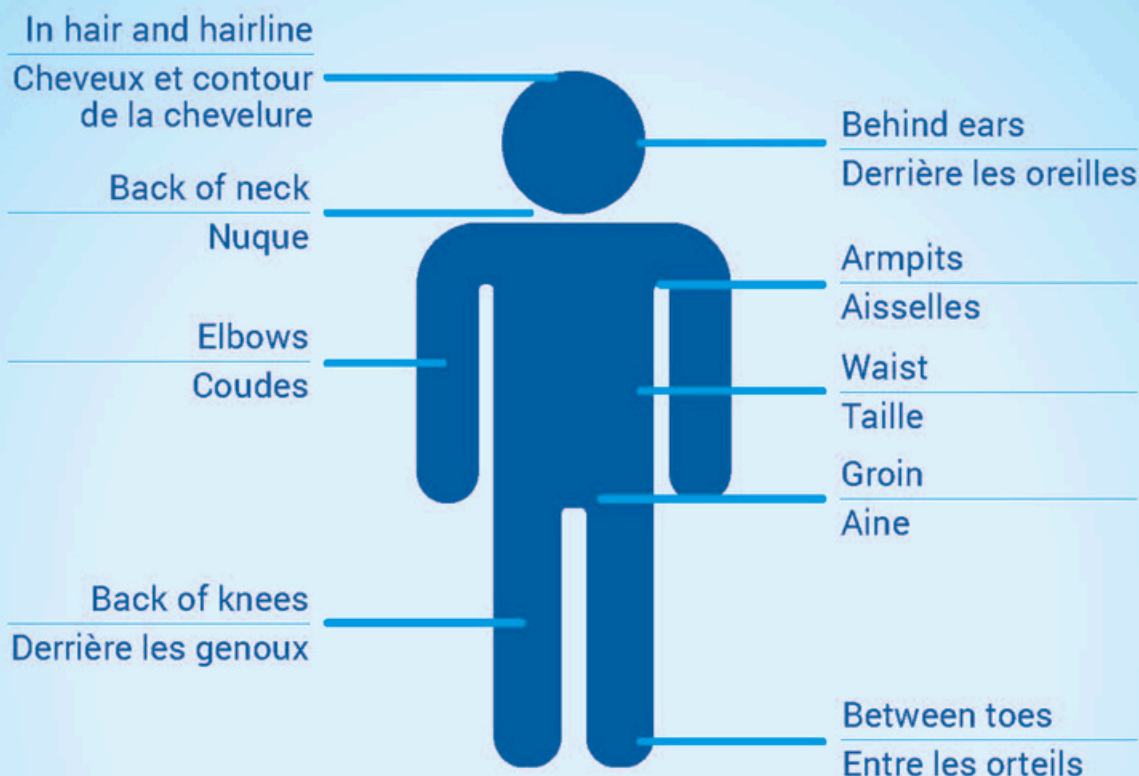
Conseils relatifs aux tiques

Check your body and clothing for ticks after spending time outside.

Ticks like warm places on the body.

Vérifiez votre peau et vos vêtements après avoir passé du temps à l'extérieur.

Les tiques aiment les endroits bien au chaud.



- Don't forget to check your pets
- A bath or shower within two hours of being outdoors makes it easier to spot ticks

- N'oubliez pas de vérifier vos animaux de compagnie.
- Il est plus facile de voir les tiques si vous prenez un bain ou une douche dans un délai de deux heures après avoir passé du temps à l'extérieur.

For more information, including how to remove a tick safely, visit novascotia.ca/ticksafety

Pour obtenir plus d'information, y compris sur la façon d'enlever une tique de façon sécuritaire, consultez le novascotia.ca/ticksafety (en anglais seulement).



PICTOU COUNTY

Climate Summit

PICTOU COUNTY WELLNESS CENTRE



SAVE THE DATE | MAY 29th & 30th, 2026




www.pictoucountypartnership.com/event/pictou-county-climate-summit

Check before you burn!

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.