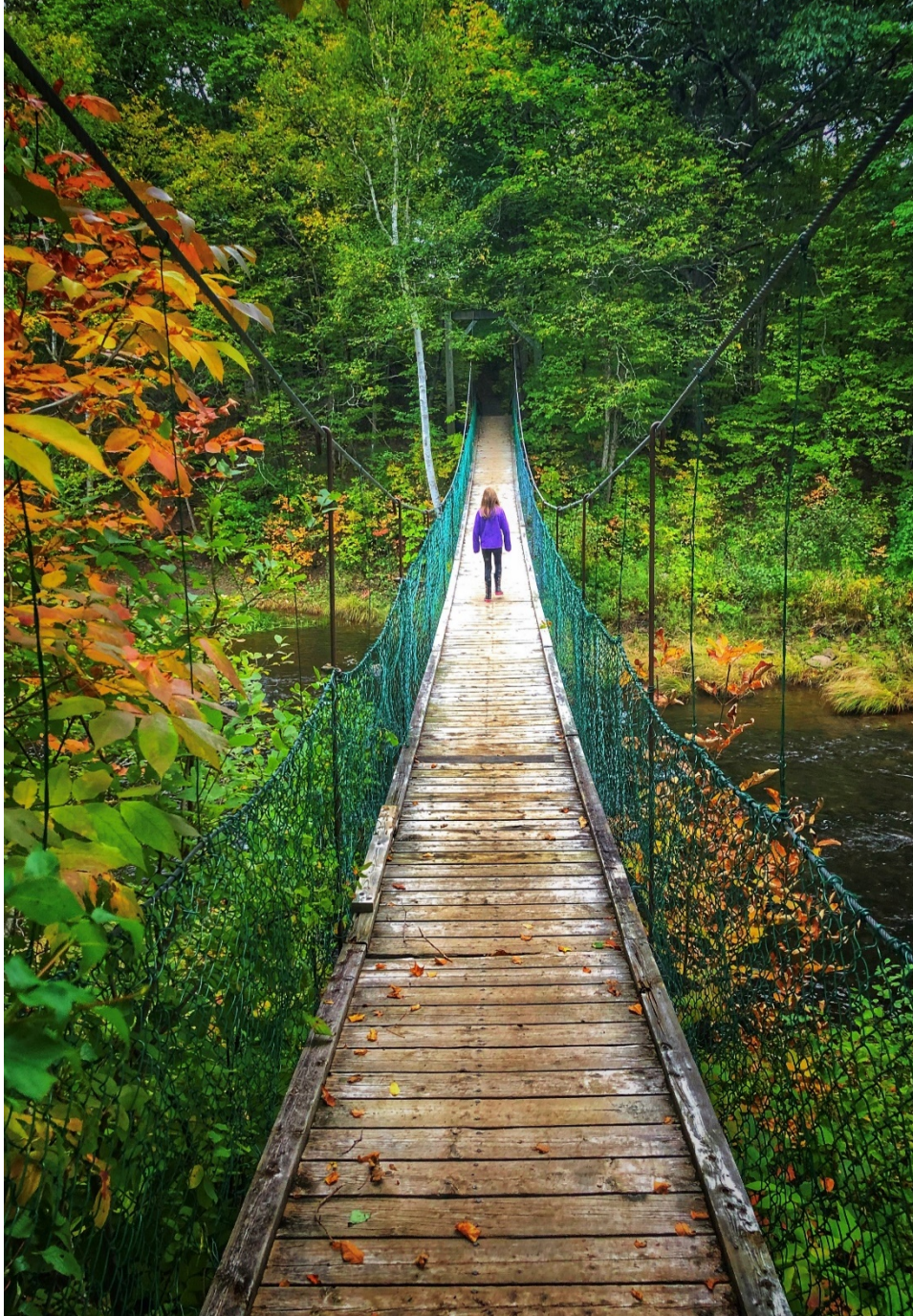


# Rural News and Views

46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, Nova Scotia - Fall 2022



A walk on the Hopewell Bridge. Photo provided by Angie Turner-Larkin.

**46 Municipal  
Drive,  
Pictou, NS,  
B0K 1H0**

**Main office  
phone number  
902-485-4311  
902-752-1530**

**Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 910,  
Pictou  
NS B0K 1H0**

## **Landfill Vouchers**

Landfill vouchers are available until Nov. 30 from the MOPC finance department. They can be picked up in person at our administration building or you can have them mailed out by calling 902-485-4311.

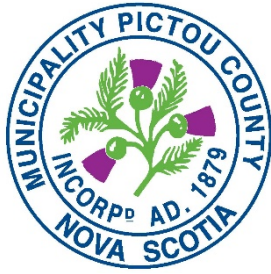
## **LEST WE FORGET**

Our administration building will be closed Nov. 11 in honour of those who served and continue to sacrifice so much for our country.

**We Will Remember  
Them.**

**Don't miss the  
latest in MOPC  
news and events.  
Check out  
[www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca)  
as well as our  
Facebook and  
Twitter.  
pages at**





## MOPC Staff Directory

### Chief Administrative Officer

Brian Cullen

[brian.cullen@munpict.ca](mailto:brian.cullen@munpict.ca)

### Communications

Sueann Musick

[sueann.musick@munpict.ca](mailto:sueann.musick@munpict.ca)

### Finance Office

Deputy Municipal Treasurer

Karen Cornish

[karen.cornish@munpict.ca](mailto:karen.cornish@munpict.ca)

### Public Works

#### and Development

Logan McDowell

[publicworks@munpict.ca](mailto:publicworks@munpict.ca)

Emergency Phone Number:

902-301-1825

### Development Officer

Jeramie Lewis

[developmentofficer@munpict.ca](mailto:developmentofficer@munpict.ca)

### Emergency Services

Evan Hale

[evan.hale@munpict.ca](mailto:evan.hale@munpict.ca)

### By-law Officer

Anne MacCarthy

[bylawenforcement@munpict.ca](mailto:bylawenforcement@munpict.ca)

### GIS Technician

Kevin Burley

[gis@munpict.ca](mailto:gis@munpict.ca)

### Building Inspection

Mike McKenzie

Travis Spears

[buildingpermits@munpict.ca](mailto:buildingpermits@munpict.ca)

### Recreation

Cindy Fraser

[cindy.fraser@munpict.ca](mailto:cindy.fraser@munpict.ca)

Clare Steele

[clare.steele@munpict.ca](mailto:clare.steele@munpict.ca)

## A Message from the Warden

The fall season is upon us again; with it, all the fall chores are getting ready for another winter season. This might include repairs to your home, putting in the winter's wood or getting winter clothing for the young ones. It is not news to anyone that the cost of everything has gone up, not just a little. All the above chores are greatly affected by inflation.



**Warden  
Robert Parker**

Heating your home is also a concern with the price of fuel which is why council is currently working on getting the new PACE program established, which will help with financing to install solar panels. More details on this will be available this fall.

If you are preparing your children for the coming winter season, it can be a real burden for many families to purchase winter clothing as the little ones grow, fill the lunch boxes every day and feed hungry mouths at home. Our municipal government is contributing dollars to all schools where rural students attend to help with breakfast programs for all students. These programs are well used and much needed if we want our students to have a fair chance. New this year, our municipality has allocated funds for a backpack program for all of our county schools, proportional to the number of rural students attending. Schools send some basic foods home with children where a need is determined. Students need good nutrition, and most schools started a program on their own because they saw a need. As food costs continue to rise, we need to be there to help play our part, especially for our children.

Many of you anxiously await news on the county's high-speed internet project. The good news is that many residents will soon have access this fall to fibre to their homes and wireless service in various locations across the county through 15 towers. More good news is that the private companies competing for your high-speed internet business on our network have very competitive prices for what should be a much-improved service. The "not so good news" is that installing all the needed fibre will take time to serve the whole county. Yes, winter is coming, and it will be financially difficult for many of us and our friends and neighbours. Please be kind and helpful to each other. It will make it much easier for all of us.

God Save the King!



MOPC Council 2020-2024: Front row: Mary Elliott, Deputy Warden Wayne Murray, Warden Robert Parker, CAO Brian Cullen, Peter Boyles, Deborah Wadden. Back, row: Darla MacKeil, Don Butler, David Parker, Larry Turner, Andy Thompson, Chester Dewar and Randy Palmer.

## MOPC Approves \$19.9 Million Operating Budget

MOPC Council approved a \$19.9 million operating budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The budget was approved during a council meeting Monday, which also included keeping the tax rate like the previous year. The residential property tax rate will be 0.815 per \$100 assessment for residential and resource property and \$1.825 per \$100 assessment for commercial property. The MOPC is expected to collect \$18.1 million in property taxes while its largest expenditures continue to be protective services and education, both of which will be over \$5 million each.

MOPC Warden Robert Parker said the 2022-23 budget is good news for many rural taxpayers and for many non-profit organizations that rely on our municipal government for funding to keep their communities alive.

He said council had requests for more than a million dollars in council grants this year and could only commit to \$450,000 and still balance the budget. The warden said many valuable projects will get done in communities, but many will need to apply next year and hope for better results.

## Sidewalk Design to begin in Plymouth area

CBCL Limited has been approved by the MOPC to start the sidewalk design work for the Plymouth (Blue Acres) area. MOPC Council recently approved its capital budget, which included \$50,000 for the design of new sidewalks in this area.

## MOPC COUNCIL

District 1 Don Butler

**902-926-2589**

**don.butler@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 Mary Elliott

**902-351-2794**

**mary.elliott@munpict.ca**

District 5 Wayne Murray

**902-485-9194**

**wayne.murray@munpict.ca**

District 6 Robert Parker

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**robert.parker@munpict.ca**

District 7 David Parker

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**david.parker@munpict.ca**

District 8 Larry Turner

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**larry.turner@munpict.ca**

District 9 Peter Boyles

**902-755-3938**

**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**

**MOPC WEBSITE:**

**www.munpict.ca**

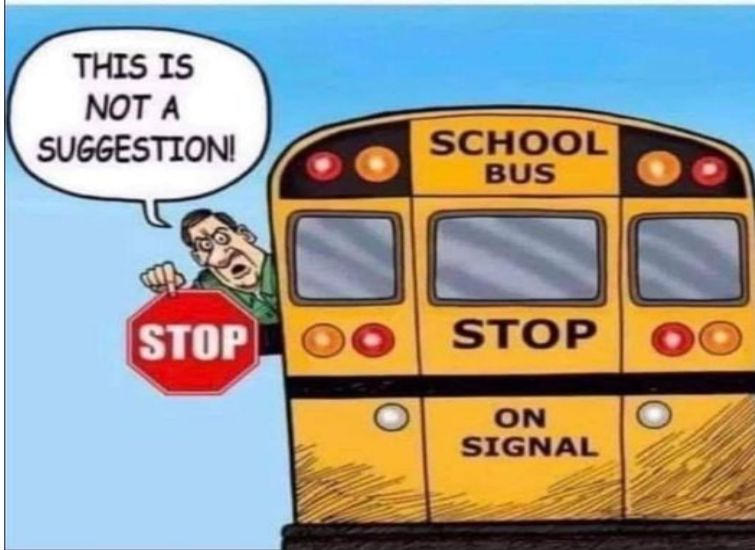
**Facebook, You Tube,**

**Instagram and Twitter Pages:**

**Municipality of Pictou County**

If a bus has its stop sign out it is either loading or unloading a student. It is telling you to stop and look for students. Just STOP, IT'S THE LAW.

This can not be shared enough



**Provincial  
Mental Health and  
Addictions Crisis Line**  
*Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*  
**1-888-429-8167** toll free

**Mental Health and  
Addictions Intake**  
*Available weekdays, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*  
**1-855-922-1122** toll free

Community Mental Health and Addictions clinics, Withdrawal Management Services,  
or Opioid Replacement and Treatment Program

Extra room in your home? Extra room in your heart?

Open your home & your 

Become a host family for an international student.

\*monthly stipend provided

[WWW.NSISP.CA/HOST](http://WWW.NSISP.CA/HOST)



The Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education is looking for host families for international students. Host families are as unique as the students.

It has families with young children, school-aged children, recent empty nesters, single parents, blended families, and families who have not yet experienced parenthood.

Host families receive a tax-free stipend of \$725 per student/month to help offset hosting costs.

If you know of families that might have an extra room or two in their homes, please consider sharing this information with them.

## RURAL NEWS AND VIEWS

### Property Taxes are due Oct. 17

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.

#### Property Taxes

Go to "Add Payee"  
Search "Pictou"  
Select "Pictou County Taxes"

Add all 8 digits of your Municipal Account number

#### Water Utility

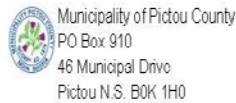
Go to "Add Payee"  
Search "Pictou"  
Select "Pictou County Water"

Add all 8 digits of your Municipal Account number

You can pay your property tax bills by dropping a cheque into the mail. The address is: The Municipality of Pictou County  
P.O. Box 910, Pictou  
Nova Scotia, B0K 1H0

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

Your property taxes create revenue that helps the MOPC provide services to rural residents. Thank you to our finance staff for this graphic that explains your property tax bill.



Property taxes are billed twice per year:  
Interim in April & Final in August

RATEPAYER'S COPY

### 2022 / 2023 INTERIM TAX BILL

NAME	NOTICE DATE	DISTRICT	MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT NUMBER
Fire rates are approved by council for individual fire departments	April 14, 2022	11	12345678
DESCRIPTION	ASSESSMENT	RATE	AMOUNT
RESIDENTIAL TAXABLE	110,200	0.8155	\$ 449.34
FIRE-PLYMOUTH	110,200	0.1900	\$ 104.69
SEWER CAPITAL			\$ 416.67
HYDRANTS - RESIDENTIAL RATE			\$ 135.00
STREET LIGHTS PLYMOUTH			\$ 24.68
SEWER 1 UNIT			\$ 156.50
Total 2022 / 2023 Interim Taxes			\$ 1,286.88
Plus Credit To Date			(\$ 1.09)
Credits, arrears or interest from a previous period will be displayed here. Interest is charged on the first of each month at 1%			
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	PLYMOUTH DWELLING	DUE DATE	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE
Legal property description shown here		June 15, 2022	\$ 1,285.79

PLEASE QUOTE MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT NUMBER WHEN CORRESPONDING REGARDING YOUR ACCOUNT

#### REMITTANCE SECTION

Use this 8 digit Account Number to pay your bill at the bank or online

#### Where do my tax dollars go?

- Education
- Policing & Corrections
- Solid Waste Collection & Disposal
- General Administration
- Recreation Services
- Public Works
- Assessment Services
- Legislative Services
- Transportation Services
- Library Services
- Building & Fire Inspections
- Municipal Grants
- Development Services

THIS ACCOUNT IS PAYABLE TO:  
MUNICIPALITY OF PICTOU COUNTY  
PICTOU NS, B0K 1H0  
PHONE: (902) 485-4311 or (902) 752-1530  
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30-4:30  
PAYABLE AT MOST FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

TAX BILL

MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT NUMBER  
12345678

ENTER AMOUNT OF PAYMENT  
\$

PLEASE WRITE YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER ON YOUR CHEQUE AND ON ANY CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING YOUR ACCOUNT

THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH YOUR PAYMENT

# MOPC Rural Broadband Network

## We Are Making Progress...

The Municipality of Pictou County (MOPC) is in the process of acquiring a state-of-the-art network that will allow our community to fully enter the digital world. This will result in numerous advantages and benefits for our citizens and businesses.

With this network, we will take a big step towards a promising future, which will open many new possibilities for the development and prosperity of our rural municipality.

### Marketplace Fibre

We have sent more than 250 letters to homes in the Lyons Brook and Hardwood Hill areas to let residents know they can sign up for our fibre network. This is a two-step process that can be quickly done by following prompts on the website provided in the letter. Select Utility Installation to have our team visit your home to install the fibre cable drop and utility terminal. This option is free of charge while our crews are in your area. There is no obligation to subscribe to a service. Once the utility installation is complete, your home will be ready for service at any point in the future, should you decide to subscribe to one of our service providers.



**Sandy MacKay is beside the data utility box that is connected to the outside of your home. This is the first step to getting fibre to your home.**

### MOPC Firsthome Wireless Service

For homes that will have wireless access to the MOPC network, service is expected to begin in the fall of 2022, thanks to the installation of 14 transmission towers within the municipality.

Towers are currently being tested in many areas and will be ready for service this fall. Those who are eligible for service will receive a letter in the mail with instructions on how to connect.



**This is the antenna placed on the outside of your home for our wireless service.**

**The MOPC network, a state-of-the-art infrastructure wholly owned by the municipality, is being built to improve the quality of life for our citizens and communities. This framework will also allow the municipality to generate revenue by collecting fees from the internet service providers using our infrastructure to provide you with high-speed internet. This revenue will be used to pay for the cost of the project.**

## REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

# REMO

Regional Emergency  
Management Organization  
**Pictou County**

Pictou County REMO is the agency that takes care of Emergency Management planning, preparation, response, and recovery in Pictou County. Every municipality in the province is responsible for emergency management in their areas, and Pictou County REMO helps make sure that all our municipalities, police departments, fire departments, and others can deal with any emergency that happens and continue to provide the essential services needed in our communities. For updates follow REMO on its Facebook and Twitter pages as well as its website at [www.remopictoucounty.ca](http://www.remopictoucounty.ca).

### Home Emergency Kit





A list of important contacts and numbers



Canned and dry foods



Pet care



Manual can opener



First-aid supplies and a list of your prescription medicines



6 litres of water per person (2 litres per day)



Wind-up or battery-powered flashlight



Wind-up or battery-powered radio and extra batteries



Charge bank for your cell phone

### Safety Tips

#### POWER OUTAGES



**Plan ahead:**

- ❗ Consider adding an alternate heat source
- ❗ Buy a wind-up or battery-powered radio
- ❗ Charge your cell phone and check your emergency kit

**During an outage:**

- ❗ Turn off appliances, and leave one light on
- ❗ Only use battery-powered lights
- ❗ Never use BBQs, generators, or camp stoves indoors

**After an outage:**

- ❗ Disconnect power before entering a flooded basement
- ❗ Throw out unsafe food
- ❗ Restock your emergency kit



72
HOURS

**Nova Scotians are encouraged to be ready to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency.**

Being prepared means:

- knowing the risks,
- developing a plan, and
- preparing a kit.

For more information, visit [novascotia.ca/EMO](http://novascotia.ca/EMO)

# STORM INFORMATION


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## HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

**VISIT:** [OUTAGEMAP.NSPOWER.CA](http://OUTAGEMAP.NSPOWER.CA)

**CALL:** 1.877.428.6004

**DAMAGED METER MAST?**  
PLEASE CONTACT A CERTIFIED ELECTRICIAN TO MAKE REPAIRS BEFORE CREWS CAN SAFELY RESTORE YOUR POWER.



#### Emergency Numbers to Remember

**911** – This is for emergencies only. If someone's health, safety or property is threatened and help is needed right away, call 911.

*Emergencies include:*

- Fire
- Serious accident
- Crime in progress
- Emergency medical situation
- Poisoning

**811** • for health information and advice when you have a health concern or question

**511** • for information about provincial roads in Nova Scotia

**311** • for Halifax Regional Municipality information and services

**211** • for community and social services

#### Other important numbers

Power Outage  
**1-877-428-6004**

Bell Alliant Outage  
**611 or 1-800-663-2600**

Eastlink Outage  
**1-888-345-1111**

Drinking Water Safety  
**1-877-936-8476**

Food Safety  
**1-877-252-FOOD (3663)**

Forest Fires  
**1-800-565-2224**

Poaching  
**1-800-565-2224**

Wildlife - Emergency Situations  
**1-800-565-2224**

Environmental Emergencies (such as oil spills and gas leaks): **1-800-565-1633**

Emergency Management Office  
**1-866-424-5620**



## Appointments necessary when applying for MOPC building permits

The Municipality of Pictou County continues to see record development and nowhere is this more evident than in our building services group. To help streamline our processes and deliver the highest levels of service possible during this building boom, the MOPC has introduced new approaches to process your building permit applications.



MOPC Building Officials, Mike McKenzie, left, and Travis Spears.

These include new online resources, administrative assistance, and dedicated appointments with our building officials, among other aids. Please email [buildingpermits@munpict.ca](mailto:buildingpermits@munpict.ca) to make an appointment to complete your building permit application. You can also call 902-485-4588 or 902-485-2243.

## Do you have your civic number on your property?

Civic numbers play an essential role in helping first responders find you in an emergency. We cannot stress how important it is that you and everyone in your home and workplace know your civic address and post it properly.

### If I do not have civic number, how do I get one?

You can call the Municipality of Pictou County's GIS department to speak to our civic addressing coordinator. The phone number is 902-485-1201 or he can be reached at [gis@munpict.ca](mailto:gis@munpict.ca).

### How do you purchase civic number signs?

Some local fire departments will order signs for residents. See the list of fire departments and businesses that provide that can provide signs.

### Can I place my sign anywhere on my property?

The Municipality of Pictou County has a bylaw on civic numbers which outlines how the signs should be posted on a property. The complete bylaw can be found on our website at [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca).

## Pictou County Civic Sign Suppliers

Supplier	Civic Address	Area Served	Phone	Email
Alma Fire	80 Alma Loop, Alma	Alma Area	902-759-4479	<a href="mailto:nedrawilson@eastlink.ca">nedrawilson@eastlink.ca</a>
Auto Trim & Sign	669 Pine tree road, Thorburn, NS	Pictou County	902-922-2915	<a href="mailto:design@atdnortheast.ca">design@atdnortheast.ca</a>
Barney's River Fire	13317 Highway 104, Pictou County	Pictou County	902-754-8422	<a href="mailto:joemacd@eastlink.ca">joemacd@eastlink.ca</a>
Eastern Sign	125 North Foord Street, Stellarton	Pictou County	902-752-2722	<a href="mailto:info@easternsign.ca">info@easternsign.ca</a>
Eureka Fire	5222 Stellarton Trafalgar Road, Eureka	Pictou County	902-923-2660	
Little Harbour Fire	8328 Pictou Landing Road, Little Harbour	Pictou County	902-755-4420	<a href="mailto:firechief@lhfd.ca">firechief@lhfd.ca</a>
Merigomish Fire	3259 Shore Road, Lower Barney's River	Pictou County	902-926-2247	
Plymouth Fire	4667 E River East Side Road, Plymouth	Plymouth Area	902-755-3229	<a href="mailto:mikemconway@eastlink.ca">mikemconway@eastlink.ca</a>
Sketch-It Design	268 Munroe Avenue Ext. New Glasgow	Pictou County	902-754-7446	<a href="mailto:sketchitsd@outlook.com">sketchitsd@outlook.com</a>
Thorburn Fire	738 Marsh Road, Thorburn	Pictou County	902-922-3419	<a href="mailto:thorburnfiredept@gmail.com">thorburnfiredept@gmail.com</a>
Linacy Fire	6735 Highway 4, Linacy	Linacy Area	902-755-5595	<a href="mailto:dalepettipas@hotmail.com">dalepettipas@hotmail.com</a>



## We are Making it Easier for You to Contact Us!

The Municipality of the County of Pictou is excited to announce the launch of our new GeoHub! Please see the link below to try it out!

Click on the link our MOPC website at [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca).



### Using the GeoHub, you'll be able to:

- View water and sewer systems in your neighbourhood.
- Find locations of municipally owned streets and sidewalks.
- Submit building permit applications.
- Report street light outages.
- Access Recreation's Loan Equipment Program.
- Submit bylaw complaints related to dangerous and unsightly properties, dogs, and other animals.
- Follow the development of municipal plans and policies.
- Submit comments and questions directly to municipal staff.
- And much more!

## District 9 News

I lost power to my home and computer because of Hurricane Fiona, and my article for this newsletter is stored on my computer. When we get power, I will put it on my District 9 Facebook account. I hope everyone got through the storm okay. Driving around District 9 and the rest of Pictou County, I know that many trees are gone, and there were power poles down everywhere. Don't forget to get out on November 11 and remember the men and women who laid down their lives for us. If I can be of any help to anyone, call me at 902-755-3938 or 902-759-7976. Stay safe, District 9 Coun. Peter Boyles



The Hillside Community Hall has finished its renovations and is now fully accessible.

Coun. Boyles sits in the main area of the building.



The hall has a ramp and new accessible entrance.



It has new accessible washrooms with change tables in each.



A full kitchen on the main level. The hall is available for rentals and hosts many community events.



# Fossil Farms Oceanside Retreat

160 Mc Vicar Ln, Egerton, NS B0K 1G0, Canada

Fossilfarmsinfo@gmail.com ♦ 902-759-0366

The MOPC Climate Advisory Committee recently met at Fossil Farms in Egerton. It was the perfect venue for the meeting, considering the oceanside retreat is powered by solar and has many recreational and outdoor activities, including canoeing and kayaking on Merigomish Harbour.

Fossil Farms has seven cottages for daily rentals and a conference room in its main barn with a full kitchen for catered events such as weddings, business meetings and family gatherings.

There is also a vineyard on the property, greenhouses, and a small hobby farm that includes sheep and chickens. Guests are encouraged to tour the property during their stay and enjoy the firepits and shelters throughout the farm for evening gatherings under the stars.



The main barn near the entrance of the farm has a full kitchen to cater events as well as dining area and conference room.



Comfortable seating areas are available in the main barn where guests can gather to chat, play boardgames or read.



The main barn's conference area is perfect for businesses looking for a new atmosphere to host meetings or special events.



Fossil Farms is powered by 80 solar panels located near the entrance of the property.

## RURAL NEWS AND VIEWS BUSINESS FEATURE



There are a few buildings on the property where guests can gather to relax in the company of others or use the space for some quiet time.



Guests are invited to borrow a kayak or canoe and paddle on Merigomish Harbour.



Fossil Farms has its own greenhouses which grow tomatoes and green peppers. It will be expanding its greenhouses to include hydroponics so vegetables can be grown all year.



Fossil Farms has seven cottages for rent that includes one- and two-bedroom accommodations.



Cool off in the summer months in the pool or relax in the sauna that overlooks Merigomish Harbour.



There are several firepits on the property that allow people can mingle with other guests.

## Rebates and assistance available to help offset home heating costs

Now that the outside temperature is starting to drop, energy cost savings are top of mind for many people. Did you know that Nova Scotia residents can apply to several rebate programs that could help reduce their energy costs this winter?

**Home Warming** – This program offers no-charge energy assessments and free home upgrades to eligible Nova Scotians. The plan is open to income-qualified homeowners. If the evaluation proves that draft-proofing, insulation, or other efficiency options can make a difference in heating or cooling your home, it will install the upgrades at no cost. Eligible participants must meet the total net income levels; you must own a single-unit home in Nova Scotia and provide proof of ownership, you must live in your home year-round with no plans to sell soon and your home must not have already been upgraded through Home Warming or the Low-Income Homeowner Service. More details can be found at [www.homewarming.ca](http://www.homewarming.ca)

### **Salvation Army Good Neighbour Energy Fund**

- The Good Neighbour Energy Fund is an emergency heating program available to Nova Scotian families. This program, administered by The Salvation Army, receives its funds from Nova Scotia Power Inc., NSP employees and customers, and the Nova Scotia Provincial Government. Applicants can re-apply every 24 months to the program, which runs annually from January through April. If you are in an emergency home heating situation, please download the application form or pick one up from your local Salvation Army church or thrift store, as well as MLA offices. More information can be found at <https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/home/programs/gnef/>



**Efficiency Nova Scotia** has several rebate programs available. A home energy assessment is highly recommended to determine if rebates apply to insulation, heating pumps, wood/pellet burning equipment, solar equipment, and other upgrades. More information can be found at <https://www.energynova.ca/.../find-rebates-on-energy-effic.../>

**Pictou County Fuel Fund** – This local program provides short-term assistance to people who don't have other options and face the prospects of an unheated home environment. Assistance is available once per heating season for urgent fuel needs, but it is an emergency service. More information about this program can be found at <http://www.pictoucountyfuelfund.ca/>

### **Weather line phone number**

1-833-794-3556 or 1-833-79HELLO  
The Passcode for Pictou County is 01001

## NS Government Expands Senior Care Grant Program

Older Nova Scotians can now apply for grants to help with the cost of household chores, healthcare services and home heating.

The Seniors Care Grant program provides up to \$500 to help support eligible seniors to live well at home.

It covers the costs of snow removal, small repairs, lawn care, transportation, grocery and medication delivery, phone and internet expenses and some health care procedures. People applying for the grant can also apply for a new, one-time grant of \$250 to help with heating costs.

It is available to Nova Scotians 65 years and older, including people who have already received money through the Seniors Care Grant or Heating Assistance Rebate Program in the past year. The grant is available for the cost of furnace oil, natural gas, propane, firewood, wood pellets and electricity.

**More information about the grants, including how to apply, who is eligible and eligible services is available: at the program**

**website: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-help-household-costs-seniors-care-grantby>**

**email: [seniorsgrant@novascotia.ca](mailto:seniorsgrant@novascotia.ca)**

**by calling toll-free: 1-800-670-4357.**

**Applications close on March 31, 2023.**

## ERV Recreation accepting donations for new natural playground



East River Valley Recreation is happy to announce that each government has granted it money for its playground project. Federal is \$34,911, provincial is \$35,000, and municipal is \$20,000. Our recreation organization has pulled together approximately \$15,000 to aid in the construction. That is a total of \$104,911. This money will construct a base for the playground and some playground equipment.

It has a target of \$130,000 that it hopes to achieve by June 2023, when the project should be completed. The more money it raises, the more equipment it can have!

This will be an accessible natural playground for everyone to enjoy. It is now asking for the East River Valley community past and present to donate money to help us reach our goal. Watts Wind Energy has given us \$3,000 to kick off this fundraising drive. No donation is too small!

### Here are ways to donate:

Any donation over \$100.00 that needs a receipt for tax purposes can send your check or money order marked for East River Valley Recreation Playground Project to:

Municipality of Pictou County  
46 Municipal Drive  
P.O Box 910  
Pictou, N.S  
B0K 1H0

People who have online banking can e-transfer to: [eastrivervalleyrec@mail.com](mailto:eastrivervalleyrec@mail.com)

This will go directly into our recreation account.

You can mail a cheque or money order to:

East River Valley Recreation  
2612 East River East Side Road  
Springville, Pictou County N.S  
B2H 5C5

Or drop your donation off at the same address.

# Thorburn Celebrates 150 Years

A large crowd gathered in Thorburn on August 27, 2022, to celebrate the unveiling of Thorburn's new historical kiosk. Thorburn residents June MacDonald, Claire Murphy, Kay Kirk, Gerry Rogers and Gerald MacLellan, unveiled the historical panels in the newly constructed kiosk on property donated by Colin and Judd Johnstone. The kiosk is located across from the Thorburn Fire Hall. The project was spearheaded by Gayle Jordan, Kathy Campbell and Manon Potvin along with committee members Art Forsyth, Dave Sponagle and Randy Palmer. Historian John Ashton provided much of the information about Thorburn's rich history gathered through extensive research. The committee and community members also contributed information and photos for the panels. Financial assistance came from The Province of Nova Scotia and the Municipality of the County of Pictou. Additional support came from the Thorburn Fire Department, which hosted a fun day for the community before the unveiling ceremony. Local contractors William Myers, Jeff Dewtie Excavating, Blaine MacLane Excavation and Auto Trim Design were responsible for building the kiosk and the surrounding landscaping. When you get an opportunity, it is worth the trip to drop by and see the kiosk that honours Thorburn's history. It will surely bring back some memories.



## Whom do you call?

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

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

Most roads in rural Pictou County are owned by the provincial government. If you have concern, contact the Department of Transportation at 902-755-7060 or toll-free at 1-844-696-7737.

## Assistance available for people impacted by Hurricane Fiona

**Nova Scotians who have been severely impacted by hurricane Fiona will receive financial support from the province. The following one-time financial assistance will be offered to eligible Nova Scotians:**

- \$100 for every household that lost power for at least 48 hours to cover the cost of spoiled food
- \$250 for every person that must pay for tree or debris removal from their property
- an additional \$250 on top of the existing \$750 seniors care grant to help with storm repairs
- \$150 to all current income assistance recipients, including Disability Support Program participants receiving income support
- \$1,000 per household in emergency funding for people ordered out of their homes or who cannot return to their homes; people can register with the Canadian Red Cross online at <https://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/hurricane-fiona-2022> or by calling 1-800-863-6582 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Funding will also be provided to support community organizations that help people:

- a \$2-million fund will assist community centres with the purchase and installation of generators
- \$500,000 to Feed Nova Scotia and \$150,000 in total for non-member food banks in Cape Breton and eastern Nova Scotia
- \$100,000 to Salvation Army and Red Cross organizations in Cape Breton
- \$100,000 in total to shelters in Cape Breton and eastern Nova Scotia to help with extra demand
- \$100,000 to establish a hotel fund, administered by Cape Breton Community Housing, to provide temporary accommodations for people in shelters who cannot go back into their homes
- \$150,000 to distribute support to families in need through the SchoolsPlus program; the support will come in the form of grocery store cards and access to food, where possible.
- **Applications and more information on disaster financial assistance are available at: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/disaster-financial-assistance-storm-flooding>**



### Northumberland Quilt Guild

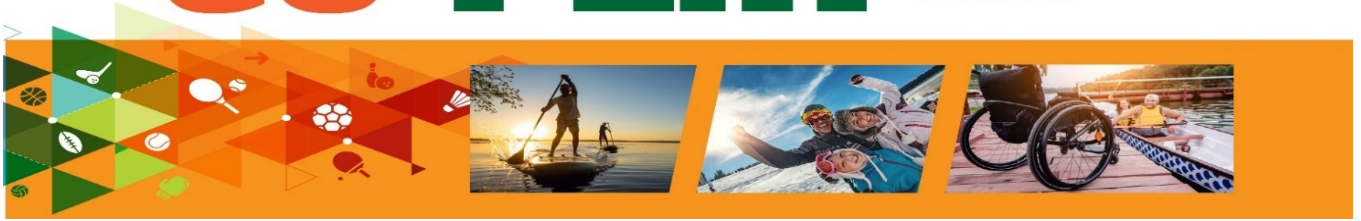
Is accepting new members! We meet every Tuesday (September to June) at the New Horizons Senior Club in Pictou for a Social day of sewing, exchanging ideas, and workshops!

Our monthly General Membership meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of each month at New Horizons starting at 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining a fun group of ladies and would like more information either pop in any Tuesday or Email:

[nqg52pictou@gmail.com](mailto:nqg52pictou@gmail.com)

# GO PLAY

PICTOU COUNTY  
EQUIPMENT LOAN  
PROGRAM



The Municipality of Pictou County has joined forces with other municipal units to create a county-wide equipment loan program. Equipment can be loaned out to anyone, free of charge, by filling out an online application form. Cross-sharing is permitted, meaning you can receive equipment from any municipality on the site. There is equipment available for all seasons. Once your application is approved, you will be given instructions for the pickup and drop off of the equipment. All we ask is that you take good care of it.

**Examples of equipment available for the fall include:**  
Inflatable Paddleboards  
Bicycles and Ebikes

Canoes and Kayaks  
Nordic Walking Poles  
Camping Equipment  
Activity Kits and Giant Games

Winter items such as snowshoes, Yak Traks, and cross-country skis will be available from November to March.



Pick and drop off of equipment just got easy at the MOPC. Come to the back of our building and find the orange Go Play door. Ring the buzzer and someone will come out to assist you.

**You can access the link by clicking on the loan equipment tab on our website at [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca)**

Due to Hurricane Fiona, many trails in the rural municipality are closed so work can be done to make them safe again. Follow Trails of Pictou County on Facebook for updates on trail cleanup and rebuilding events, opportunities to donate and any upcoming reopening plans. [www.facebook.com/PictouCountyTrails](http://www.facebook.com/PictouCountyTrails).

## There's an app for that!

Download our mobile app  
'Pictou County Solid Waste'

  
See your  
waste collection  
schedule

  
Receive  
reminders about  
your collection day

  
Learn if  
materials can  
be recycled



Don't have a mobile device? Visit [www.pcwastemgmt.com](http://www.pcwastemgmt.com).  
You can also sign up for reminders by email or phone call.  
Search for an item to learn if it can be recycled with the  
'Waste Wizard'.

Questions? Call us (902) 396-1495







Pictou County 4H Ambassador Haley Cody was on hand for a flag raising with MOPC Warden Robert Parker recently in honour of 4H Nova Scotia's upcoming 100th-anniversary celebrations.



Warden Parker and members of council attended the 4H anniversary celebrations in September at the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition grounds. The celebration included a walk down memory lane with viewings of old newspaper clippings and photos as well as a barbecue hosted by the River John Lions Club and a cake cutting.

### Council and Committee Meetings Open for Public Viewing

MOPC Council meets the first Monday of each month and the third Monday of the month for property and finance committees.

You can attend the meetings in person at 7 p.m. in council chambers or view online through a link posted on our website, [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca).

Meetings are also archived on our YouTube Channel, Municipality of Pictou County.

If you wish to make a presentation to council, please contact CAO Brian Cullen for details.

**In-School Mentoring**

**Looking for Mentors for Scotsburn Elementary**

- Volunteer as a Mentor!
- One hour a week throughout the school year on school property.
- Provides young people with a role model and friend to do activities like board games, crafts and enjoying lunch together

For more information call 902-752-6260 or visit [pictoucounty.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](http://pictoucounty.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)

Page 1 / 1

# Fire Prevention Week 2022

October 9 – 15<sup>th</sup> is Fire Prevention week; this year Fire Prevention week celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing information on how to prevent and prepare for fire. This year's topic is **"Fire won't wait, Plan your escape"**.

In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety education isn't just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk of fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Week to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

## Home fire escape planning and practicing

It is important for everyone to plan and practice a home fire escape. Everyone needs to be prepared in advance so that they know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Given that every home is different, every home fire escape plan will also be different.

Have a plan for everyone in the home. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them!



- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.

### Smoke alarms

Smoke alarms sense smoke well before you can, alerting you to danger. Smoke alarms need to be in every bedroom, outside of the sleeping areas (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of your home. Do not put smoke alarms in your kitchen or bathrooms.

Choose an alarm that is listed with a testing laboratory, meaning it has met certain standards for protection.

For the best protection, use combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms that are interconnected throughout the home. These can be installed by a qualified electrician, so that when one sounds, they all sound. This ensures you can hear the alarm no matter where in your home the alarm originates.

# Be a Volunteer Firefighter

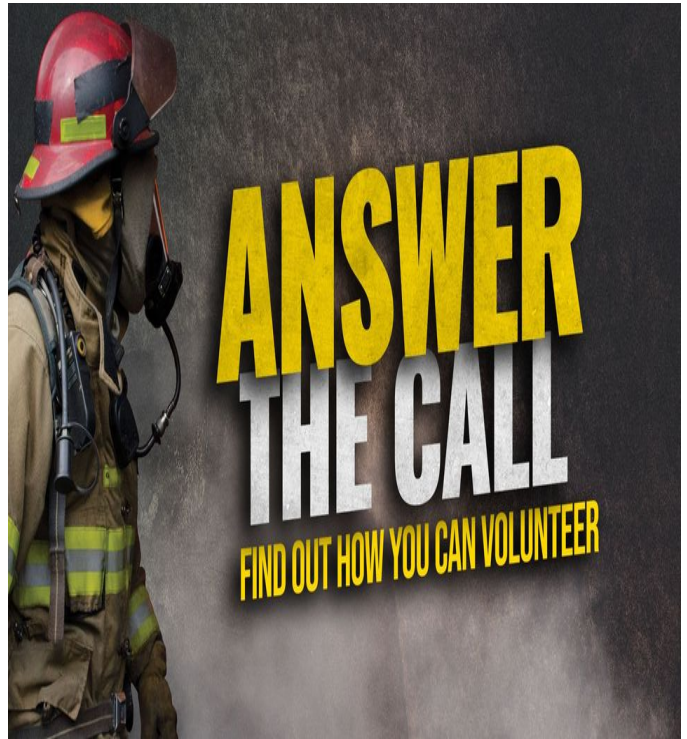
The Municipality of Pictou County has 18 volunteer fire departments, serving approximately 22,000 residents in different communities throughout our municipality. Our county has multiple districts, ranging from heavily rural, to large commercial and industrial properties.

Currently, we have approximately 400 volunteer firefighters, proudly serving their communities. Tasks range from fire suppression, motor vehicle collisions, water rescue, medical emergencies, fire prevention and other public and agency assistance calls.

Some common misconceptions regarding joining your local fire department are that you will be required to actively fight a fire, which is not true; We require volunteers for ALL positions, these can include but are not limited to, Driver/Operators, Safety Officers, Accountability Officers, Traffic Control, and other supportive roles. There is no age limit for who can apply, and there is a job for all skill and comfort levels. If you are interested in becoming a firefighter, email [recruiting@munpict.ca](mailto:recruiting@munpict.ca) or visit the Municipality's website ([Munpict.ca](http://Munpict.ca)) and click "become a volunteer firefighter".

There are a few benefits to becoming a volunteer firefighter:

- Federal tax credit of \$3000/year
- Provincial tax refund of \$500/year
- Free registration for one set of firefighter plates for your vehicle
- A comprehensive insurance package which includes WCB coverage, as well as VFIS coverage
- Operate as part of a team
- Make a difference in your community

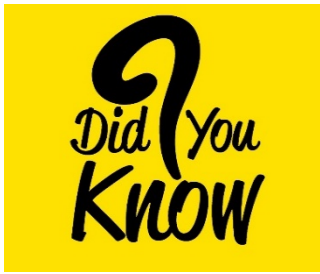


## Earn a High School Credit for being part of a local fire station

New this year in our county is a Fire Cadet program being offered by some of our counties fire departments. This means that if you are a student in Pictou County in grades 10 through 12, you can sign up for our fire cadet program, and after completing the required curriculum, you will be given a Personal Development Credit that is offered by the Province of Nova Scotia.



To apply, simply scan the QR code below, or for more information email [recruiting@munpict.ca](mailto:recruiting@munpict.ca)



**Animal Cruelty Reminder:**  
Animal welfare is of premiere importance to MOPC. If you suspect animal neglect or abuse, please contact the SPCA or Department of Agriculture as appropriate using the following contact information:  
**Domesticated Animals:**  
**SPCA Cruelty line** - 1-888-703-7722  
Should you not receive confirmation from the above Cruelty line, call 902-396-3595  
**Livestock:**  
**Department of Agriculture** – 902-956-1165  
ICE@novascotia.ca  
Please note that MOPC Bylaw Enforcement personnel should only be contacted in the case of dogs/animals at large or for other bylaw violation complaints.  
communities.



## It is important to be a responsible dog owner!

**The Municipality of Pictou County (MOPC) can impose fines to dog owners if dogs are running at large off their property.**

The MOPC encourages all dog owners to register their dogs so they can be easily identified if they are found off their property. It may not seem like much, but a small metal tag on your dog's collar can mean keeping your dogs safe, and home, where they belong.

MOPC Tags are \$10 for spayed and neutered dogs, and it is a lifetime tag. Non-spayed and non-neutered tags are \$35.00. You can purchase your dog tag(s) at the MOPC Administration Building at 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, NS.

The benefit of a registered dog is that if we pick up your dog running at large, the first time, we will return your dog directly to you. If it is not tagged, we will take it to the SPCA, and you will be required to pay all fees associated with impounding the dog(s) until they are reclaimed by its owners. The MOPC can set associated fees as high as \$410.00 and dogs will not be returned until the owner has registered and tagged the dog.

We thank rural Pictou County residents for your ongoing cooperation and wish you and your four-legged friends a wonderful summer. Attached for your information and reference is the Dog Tag Registration Form which contains an overview of Offences and Penalties from the MOPC Dog Control Bylaw.

**For more information, call (902) 485-8640; or email [bylawenforcement@munpict.ca](mailto:bylawenforcement@munpict.ca).**