

# The MOPC Spotlight

E-newsletter



October 2024



The MOPC gave away 500 hardwood saplings this fall. Thanks to everyone who took one to plant!

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# Change in seasons and council

I hope that all of you are enjoying the beautiful fall display that Mother Nature is serving up in our trees and forests.

Time has flown by and another cycle has come to an end for our County Council. In early November, we will swear in our new Council for the next four years. I want to thank my 11 fellow councillors for working constructively over the last four years to help our County to grow and get past some of the worst storms in many years.

On Nov. 6, our Councillors will choose the leadership of our Council and all our working committees for the next four years.

My thoughts and prayers are with all our County residents who have lost dear loved ones and all those battling serious illness or injuries. We are all here to support you.

On a positive note, there will be lots of opportunity for you to have your say on a number of critical issues over the next couple of months. Your voice does count. Please let it be heard on these important issues. Also, please take advantage of some of the offerings from MOPC, including Go Play in recreation, reasonably priced high-speed internet as it becomes available and programs through SwitchMOPC to help reduce energy costs in your homes.

Remember to support each other everyday and be thankful for the beautiful Pictou County that we all live in together and the peace that we enjoy when many in the world do not.

Warden Robert Parker



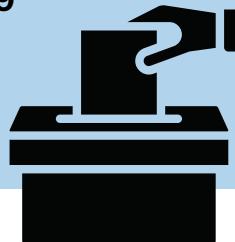
Some trees showing beautiful fall colours outside the MOPC Administrative Building.

## Don't forget to vote!

Residents can cast their ballots now through 7 p.m. on Oct. 19, 2024.

This can be done with any electronic device, phone or, for those requiring assistance, at a kiosk between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Oct. 19, 2024.

Watch for election results online at [www.electionspectoucounty.ca](http://www.electionspectoucounty.ca) after 7 p.m. on Oct. 19



### 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

# How to vote

Residents in the six municipalities in Pictou County will be able to vote between noon on Oct. 6 and 7 p.m. on Oct. 19, 2024. Residents can vote using their phone or online with any electronic device that connects to the internet.



Review your voter information letter for a PIN and voting instructions.



Call a toll-free number to cast your vote by phone.



Vote online using the web link in your voter information letter. Be sure to type it in the URL address bar and not a search engine.



Kiosks will be set up only for those who require assistance voting.

Contact us if you do not receive a voter information letter by Oct. 7. For more information about the election visit [www.elections pictoucounty.ca](http://www.elections pictoucounty.ca) or contact the help desk Monday, Oct. 7, 2024 through Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024. The toll free number for the Help Desk is 1-833-901-0007 and hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily except for Sunday, Oct. 13.

# Project Update!

The draft Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw will soon be available for public review and we will be looking for your feedback! Keep an eye on MOPC's social media, or sign up for updates on the project website below to stay in the loop. There will be multiple ways to share your feedback on the draft documents, both online and in-person. In the meantime, mark your calendar for a community workshop near you!



## Community Workshops

Join us for a community workshop in your area to learn more about the contents of the draft planning documents, ask questions and share your thoughts.



### **November 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm**

Linacy Fire Hall (6735 Hwy 4, Linacy, NS)



### **November 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm**

Caribou Fire Hall (512 Three Brooks Rd, Pictou, NS)



### **November 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm**

Alma Fire Hall (80 Alma Loop, Westville, NS)



### **November 26, 2024 at 6:30pm**

Union Centre Community Hall (1 Salter Rd, Union Centre, NS)



### **November 27, 2024 at 6:30pm**

Scotsburn Fire Hall (4179 Scotsburn Rd, Scotsburn, NS)



### **November 28, 2024 at 6:30pm**

Plymouth Fire Hall (4467 East River Side Rd, Plymouth, NS)

## Stay Involved

To learn more about the project, sign up for project updates and stay involved, please visit [www.imagineMOPC.ca](http://www.imagineMOPC.ca)



## What is Imagine MOPC?

In September 2023, the Municipality of Pictou County (MOPC) launched "Imagine MOPC", a project to develop a municipality-wide Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) for the Municipality of Pictou County. Currently, there is no land use planning in MOPC with the exception of the Wind Energy Bylaw and the Subdivision Bylaw. In 2018, the Provincial Government passed new legislation that requires every municipality to adopt land use rules that meet newly established minimum planning standards. The Imagine MOPC project will bring MOPC into compliance with this provincial mandate.

# Bracing for wind

## Climate change can bring severe wind damage

Homeowners near hardwood forests or with large hardwood trees close to their buildings should not be too relaxed about their safety.

Severe windstorms, like Hurricane Fiona, can topple massive hardwood trees, leading to higher wildfire risks and costly cleanup. Softwood forests suffered even more damage; once the wind reached the edge, these shallow-rooted trees fell easily.

Climate change raises questions about the future of our forests. What tree species can withstand stronger winds, more rain, and higher temperatures? How should we adapt our housing?



## Planning ahead

To address these issues, MOPC plans to:

- Expand the annual MOPC Tree Planting Program by planting more seedlings, involving more volunteers and partners, and hiring planting contractors.
- Consider replacing existing boreal tree species with those better suited to the changing climate.

# Got food?

## Changing weather could cause food shortage

Pictou County, like the rest of Nova Scotia, doesn't grow enough food to meet all its needs. If we lose transportation links with the rest of Canada, such as from a hurricane flooding the Trans-Canada highway and railway at the NS-NB border, Nova Scotia could face food shortages quickly.

Some solutions to prevent this include raising the height of the dykes, elevating the rail and road beds, and relocating the highway and railway to higher ground.

But even if we keep the Tantramar connection open, bad weather can still ruin crops and affect our food supply. For example, long droughts on the prairies can reduce our grain and meat supplies. Nova Scotia grows a lot of fruits and vegetables, but unpredictable weather has caused problems recently.

In June 2018, frosts hurt the fruit sector, and hurricanes in September have damaged crops. The polar vortex in winter 2023 also harmed fruit trees.

To reduce the risk of food shortages, Pictou County could use its underutilized farmland to grow more fruits, vegetables, grains, and livestock.



**Nova Scotia is dependent on the supply of food and goods across the Chignecto Isthmus.**



**Unpredictable temperatures associated with Climate Change can cause damage to many crops.**

### Reducing the risk

To address these issues, MOPC proposes to consider offering incentives to boost local agriculture.

SCOTSBURN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OCTOBER 19, 2024 1:00 - 4:00 PM



# SCOTSBURN SHOWCASE & SOCIAL

MEET NEIGHBOURS WHILE LEARNING ABOUT LOCAL  
BUSINESSES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.  
EVENT IS FREE AND ALL AGES WELCOME.



We are excited to invite you to our first “Showcase & Social” event, hosted by the Scotsburn Recreation Club in partnership with local businesses and community organizations.

Join us on Oct. 19th from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Scotsburn Elementary School for an afternoon dedicated to celebrating the vibrant community of Scotsburn and its surrounding areas!

This FREE event is an incredible opportunity for everyone to discover the amazing products, services, and volunteer opportunities offered by our local organizations. Whether you’re looking to engage with new members, recruit volunteers, or simply learn more about what our community has to offer, this event is for you!

Enjoy an afternoon filled with music, refreshments, and the chance to connect with your neighbors. It’s a wonderful occasion to catch up and explore how we can all support one another in building a thriving community.

2<sup>ND</sup>  
annual



# WITCHES ON THE WATER



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH : 2PM**

**LOCATION:** Love Local Vendor Village on Caladh Avenue and Depot Street.

**IT'S TIME TO DRESS UP AND GET ON THE WATER AGAIN WITH  
YOUR FAVORITE GHOSTS AND GOBLINS!**

**BRING YOUR OWN BOAT -BOARD, CANOE, KAYAK (OR BROOM)  
OR BORROW ONE BY CONTACTING [CLARE.STEELE@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:CLARE.STEELE@MUNPICT.CA)**

**PFDS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT!**

**DON'T WANT TO PADDLE? JOIN OUR HAUNTED WALK ON THE WATERFRONT  
WITCHES WALK: 3PM**



**Pay what you can! All proceeds for this event will go  
to the Go Play Fund**



# Switch MOPC Program

Assisting your transition to more efficient energy sources.



## What Are Your Available Efficiency Options?

Through this program MOPC residents are granted access to an “Energy Concierge” (EC) which they can contact through phone or email. Your EC will help you determine what options are available for improving your homes energy efficiency. They are here to help and answer any questions you may have!



## Switch MOPC Provides



### Energy Concierge Service

To reduce confusion around energy efficiency by informing homeowners about available options and opportunities.



### Financing

To remove upfront costs associated with completing energy efficiency upgrades.



### Guidance Throughout Upgrade Process

Homeowners receiving financing will receive guidance from their energy concierge every step of the way. This includes: assistance with paperwork, rebate assistance, quote review, scheduling of home energy assessments, contractor selection and much more!

## Contact us to speak to your energy concierge

They can help you explore what would work best for your home and specific needs!



**(902) 334-4100**