

Rural News and Views

Newsletter



June 2024

Tree planting held in Merigomish, P. 3



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Warden's Summer Message

It is great to see our beautiful part of Pictou County coming alive in so many ways with the return of sunny, warm days. Let's hope that we have lots of them to help our crops grow, whether for our commercial farmers or our many backyard growers.



Crops, of course, require more than sunshine. They need about an inch of rain each week for optimum growth. That rain is also very important to dampen our forest, lowering the risk of fire in our woods. As we can see every day if we are travelling our rural roads, our forests are still a mess in many places following Fiona in September 2022. All the dead wood and branches are the ideal kindling to start a fire. Please be extra careful if you are in the woods this summer, not to accidentally start a fire.

Our Council is currently working on a best strategies to be more ready for emergencies, especially, but not only, those caused by extreme weather events. Fire is certainly one that we must be prepared for but also flooding, hurricanes and eventually again, huge snowstorms. But, hopefully, not this summer!

I am pleased to hear from our Emergency Director for the County that a sizable number of our volunteer firefighters from across the county have agreed to be trained to fight wildfires and not just structural fires.

Our Council is working with our Provincial government to establish a voluntary Vulnerable Persons List. The word "voluntary" is key. If you don't want your name on a list, it won't be put there. Many of those in our communities who are vulnerable, especially in times of emergency, do not have family or neighbours or friends to check on them. We need a good list of who they are and where they are, to help keep them safe. Also along with the provincial government we have assisted many of our community halls and fire departments to obtain generators so they can serve as comfort centres when those are needed, in their own communities.

Please enjoy a beautiful summer in rural Pictou County. Please always keep safety at the forefront and please be kind to each other and our visitors.

Volunteers spruce up field in Merigomish

Volunteers planted several thousand spruce seedlings in Merigomish on Saturday, May 13.

The planting was a project of the Climate Change Committee for the Municipality of Pictou County, which purchased 5,000 trees to be planted in the county.

Approximately 3,000 were planted at the site on Lamont Road and the rest were distributed to interested landowners and made available to the public.

Tree planting subcommittee chair David Parker said it was a great success.

“There was a good turnout of volunteers from ages 2 to 72,” Parker said.

He said the committee is thankful that the property owner Paul Daniels allowed them to plant the trees on his land.

Members of the 144 Construction Engineering Flight from Pictou were among those who helped out with the planting and stayed from start to finish.

Parker said it was also nice to see young children involved and being taught to give back to their community.

“It shows that we can do things to help alleviate climate change,” he said. “That’s our main goal to get more people planting trees.”

The softwood planting has become an annual tradition for the Climate Change Committee and is expected to continue in the coming years.



Governor General Mary Simon plants a spruce seedling in Caribou River. The tree was one of the ones purchased by the Climate Change Committee to be planted. From Left: Red MacKean, Cheryl MacKay, Whit Fraser, Governor General Mary Simon, James Fraser, Ron Turnbull, Margaret Rovers, Ramon Madiavilla and Alejandro Mediavilla.



The 144 Construction Engineering Flight in Pictou helped with the tree planting in Merigomish.

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

Volunteer recognition



Gordie MacKinnon was announced as The Municipality of Pictou County's 2024 Volunteer of the Year during a special ceremony held April 16 at the Pictou County Wellness Centre.

A lifelong resident of Lismore, MacKinnon has always believed in neighbours helping neighbours.

He started volunteering as a youth by helping neighbours with chores and small tasks in the community. Over time his efforts have expanded to include more formalized roles on boards and organizations.

He has coached sports teams, helped build the Lismore Ball Field and volunteered with events at the former East Pictou Rural High.

Today he is actively involved with the Lismore Parish Council, Lismore Community Centre, Merigomish Fire Department and the Bailey's Brook and Lismore Cemeteries.

"He works with you and sets a good example to everyone involved to do their best for their community because they will help others in some way 'down the road'" his nominator said.

Other nominees for this year's Volunteer of the Year Award were: Monica Beudin, Joan Clark, Alan Elliott, Candace Ferguson, Lisa Hawkes, Cody and Gillian Joudrie, Erin MacGregor, Alena Martin and Tim Van Veen.

The MOPC also honoured youth volunteers. The Karma Closet Crew at Northumberland Regional High School was recognized for their efforts to address food insecurity. Melanie McDuff was recognized for her contributions to numerous community events.

"Without volunteers, all of our lives would be much more mundane and much less enjoyable," Warden Robert Parker said.

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District 9 news

Hi District 9,

Spring is here and summer is right around the corner Hallelujah!

Pictou County had a challenging winter this year with snow, snow, snow, freezing raining, high winds, and heavy rainfalls causing utility outages, inaccessible roads and homes, hazardous road conditions, washouts, flooding and business closures.

A significant number of people in rural Pictou County were unable to leave their homes due to these winter storms, many with health challenges. I would like to thank the firefighters, first responders, linesmen, healthcare workers and road crews who worked long hours to ensure people's safety and health.

Being a good neighbor took on a new meaning this winter. Many of you called and checked on your neighbors to ensure their well being, ran errands for them and shovelled them out. Thank you all for helping each other.

A special shout out to Linacy's Fire Chief Bruce Young, who went above and beyond to see that a resident received the necessary medication during the storm. Bruce, your dedication and service to the community are truly appreciated.

Congratulations to the Linacy Fire Department on the new Fire Rescue Tanker 7, what a beautiful truck. Thank you very much to the truck committee for this great project. This new truck will assist the firefighters to serve the people of District 9 and surrounding communities. Please show your support and appreciation for the Linacy Fire Department and Linacy Ladies Auxiliary by supporting their fundraisers.

I have received numerous calls from Hillside residents asking why the MOPC Fibre Network internet is not being offered to Hillside residents as it was their understanding it would be offered to all Pictou County municipal residents. I understand this issue is important to Hillside residents and that you are feeling excluded from this municipal service. I am looking into this issue and seeing what I can do. I will keep you updated on this matter.



A reminder that with the summer weather here it's best to leave your fur babies home and not in a car to avoid a potentially tragic outcome. If you are unsure if an animal is in distress, call the Nova Scotia SPCA at 1-888-703-7722.

Please remember it is tick time and when spending time outdoors it's important to know how to prevent and treat tick bites. Check your pets regularly too for ticks.

I would like to take this opportunity to send congratulations to all our 2024 graduates. Congratulations on this milestone as you begin the next chapter of your lives. Shine Bright!!!

"It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it." —Nelson Mandela

Congratulations to all the other students and teachers for their hard work this year. Enjoy your summer, you deserve it.

I wish to thank the residents of District 9, for their continued support. It remains a privilege to work with you to improve our community. If you have any concerns or ideas that you would like to see implemented please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

I wish everyone a fun and safe summer.

Sincerely:

Peter Boyles

Councillor – District 9

Email: peter.boyles@munpict.ca

Phone: 902-759-7976

Need a landfill voucher?

Get yours at the MOPC office or by mail.

Call 902 485-4311 for more information.

Municipal elections will be held Oct. 19, 2024

Municipal Elections in Nova Scotia will be held on Oct. 19, 2024.

The Returning Office which will manage the elections for the six municipalities in Pictou County is now open, but regular office hours have not started yet.

If you are interested in running for office in the Municipality of Pictou County, Town of New Glasgow, Town of Stellarton, Town of Westville, Town of Trenton or Town of Pictou, please contact Returning Officer Josephine MacDonald by email at returningofficer@munpict.ca or by phone at (902) 759-1652.

All voting for the election will be electronic, with voters having the choice to vote by phone or online.



Josephine MacDonald will be the Returning Officer for the upcoming Municipal Election in Pictou County.

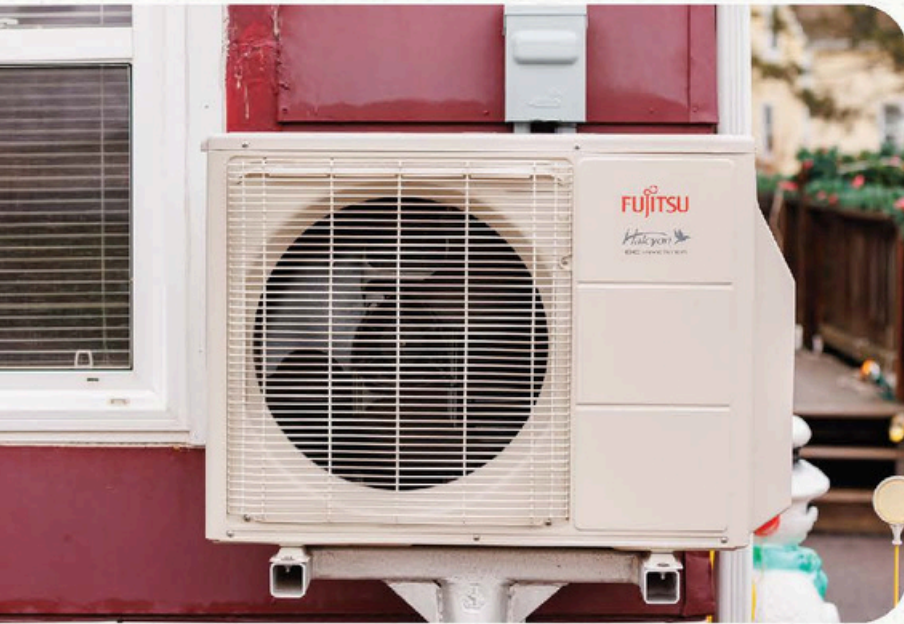
Funding announcements



Central Nova MP Sean Fraser and Premier Tim Houston announced in March that they will contribute funding to the MOPC MacLellan's Brook Water Project. The investment will provide safer drinking water to about 195 properties.



Premier Tim Houston recently announced that the province will be contributing \$1.6 million to extend wastewater to the community of Salem. The Salem wastewater extension project will serve about 30 homes and businesses.



GETTING OFF OIL WITH A HEAT PUMP!

As the trend of switching from oil to heat pumps continues to spread across Canada, we would like to highlight some of the benefits of heat pumps and how we can help homeowners install them.



Heat pumps are much more energy efficient than oil heating systems.



Heat pumps' high efficiency typically lowers heating costs compared to oil, offsetting their initial cost over time.



Switching to heat pumps from an oil heating system drastically reduces your carbon emissions.



Heat pumps provide both heating and cooling, offering a versatile, all-in-one solution for home climate control.

How We Can Help

Through the Switch MOPC Program residents will gain access to an “Energy Concierge” who can guide them through the entire upgrade process. Your “EC” will answer any questions you may have, letting you know of the unique opportunities and incentives involved in switching to a heat pump.

Switch MOPC will also pay your contractor upfront for your heat pump upgrade, allowing you to pay back the program with small monthly payments over 10 years.

Switch MOPC Information Session

If you're interested in learning more about how Switch MOPC can help you upgrade to a heat pump, Join us at 6:00pm, June 6th at the Little Harbor Community Centre.

Switch MOPC Energy Concierges Zoë and Charlotte will be giving a short presentation on the program and will answer any questions you have!



Visit switchmopc.ca for your free tickets



TownePlace Suites coming to East River Business Park

NEW GLASGOW – A new hotel is coming to Pictou County.

Frank Barci, president of Barci Enterprises Inc. and his investment partner Carlos Lopes have purchased a two-acre lot in the East River Business Park which is co-owned by the Town of New Glasgow and Municipality of Pictou County. They will be constructing a hotel for TownePlace Suites, a hotel chain owned by Marriott International.

Construction on the 100-room hotel is expected to start in the spring of 2025.

Barci said he first heard about the land for sale in the East River Business Park through a representative who saw potential in the region. He did some initial background research about the area and the local accommodations market, but it was a trip to see the property in person that really sold him on the location.

Not only was it situated off the busy East River Road, which sees 30,000 vehicles a day, but it was near the Aberdeen Hospital and the Trans Canada Highway and just minutes away from malls and downtown New Glasgow. On top of all that, it had the visibility he was hoping for.

“It sits up high enough that when we build it people will be able to see it from the highway,” Barci said.

TownePlace Suites is a type of hotel that offers the option of long-term stay and each room will include a refrigerator and stove.

“They’ll have a place they can stay and cook their own meals instead of having to go out to a restaurant,” Barci said.

He said this should be particularly of interest for workers staying in the area temporarily or people with family staying at the Aberdeen Hospital for an extended period. It might also appeal to people coming into the area for sports events who want the ability to cook their meals.

The hotel will also feature a pool and on-site laundry services. Barci anticipates construction will take about 14-16 months.



Construction is expected to start in 2025 on TownePlace Suites.

Joe MacDonald, chair of the New Scotland Business Development Inc. which manages the East River Business Park, said the hotel will be a great addition to the business park and will benefit the entire community.

“It provides more short-term accommodations for professionals coming into the county, which should free up more available housing for other residents.”

Randy Palmer, who is vice-chair for business park said it’s a great announcement.

“I think it is a perfect fit for the Business Park,” Palmer said. “The location is ideal for businesses in the area and convenient for those coming to Pictou County for medical and health care services.”

MacFarlane believes it could foster further development.

“The addition of a branded hotel to this part of the County is a game changer, both in the potential future development it may encourage, and also in the way it remedies a service gap in the extended stay market,” he said.

For more information about land opportunities in the East River Business Park call Frank MacFarlane at (902) 755-3575 or email frank.macfarlane@newglasgow.ca.

District 2 update

During the past few weeks I have had my Ratepayers Meetings both in Pictou Landing and Little Harbour and there is a huge concern with our residents who want to be active on our roads but with the speeding and careless behaviour of many motorists on our highways, this is almost impossible.

With cottages opening up and as our weather warms up, there will be even more vehicles on our roads in District 2. Motorists are urged to pay more attention to their speed and other distractions. Unfortunately most road shoulders are in terrible condition so walkers, joggers and bikers must pay attention to these conditions as well as being very aware of road traffic. RCMP are aware of these situations and will be more visible with their road checks. We do not want to see anyone hurt!

Climate change and coastal protection are concerns for the residents as well. With all the trees that are lying dead in our area, there is a huge concern about forest fires. Please check the NS Burn map which is updated every day at 2 p.m. There is no burning from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day and the fine for violating these restrictions is \$25,000.

Hurricanes and snowstorms have wrecked havoc these past couple of years for District 2, so we certainly do not want to deal with anything as devastating as an out of control fire.

I would like to acknowledge both the Pictou Landing Fire Hall and the Little Harbour Community Centre, who are now officially Warming Centres for District 2. Both have had generators installed to assist with this.

We saw during Fiona, the importance of having centres where residents could get water, have a coffee and in some cases a meal meanwhile, their devices were charging. My hope is we will not need them but it is comforting to know we have people in our District ready to help if we find ourselves in another weather event.

Our council realizes how important it is to have communities come together and enjoy some family time with friends and neighbours. Each councillor has \$1,500 to put toward such a function.

A committee with representation from Little Harbour, Pictou Landing and Pictou Landing First Nations and surrounding areas have planned a District 2 Family Fun Day for Saturday, June 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Little Harbour Community Centre. It promises to be a great event so I urge all residents from District 2 to come out and enjoy the festivities.

Our Municipal Election will be held Saturday, Oct 19, 2024. Once again it will be electronic voting. You will be able to vote from 12 a.m. Oct. 6 through to 7 p.m. Oct. 19. I am pleased to be able to put my name forward once again to represent the residents of District 2. It is an honour and a privilege to be your councillor, so look forward to seeing some of you when campaigning.

I hope our weather cooperates and everyone gets to enjoy a great summer!

Take Care all!
-- Councillor Debi Wadden

DISTRICT 13 RECREATION & PLANNING COMMISSION THORBURN & SURROUNDING AREAS 2024 SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

NO COST FOR THE PROGRAM

The Recreation Program will begin on Tuesday, July 2nd until Friday, August 16th at the Thorburn Mohawk Ball Field, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The summer recreation program is for children ages 5 to 14 years old.

Parents can register (fill out all necessary forms) their children on the first day they attend the program.

Come have fun, play sports, games, and go on field trips.

If you require further information, contact Randy Palmer at 922-2277.

Hillside Community Hall update

The Hillside Community Hall continues to be a busy place hosting the very popular Friday Night Kitchen Party, their monthly 50/50 draw, dances, yoga and many hall rentals.

We continue to have our monthly 50/50 draw on the second Wednesday of each month. Your support is needed and much appreciated. If you wish to get in on the draw you can contact Morgan at 902-921-1118 Etransfer is an option. The draw is videoed live and shown on our Facebook site.

The Friday Night Kitchen Party is every Friday night from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. General admission is \$5 dollars, free admission for musicians and a light lunch is served.

The Friday Night Kitchen Party will close for the summer, the last Kitchen Party will be on June 14 at 6:30 p.m. Since it is our closing party we will be having a BBQ also. See everyone again in September.

The Hillside Community Hall has had a generator recently installed which will now allow the hall to act as a comfort station for the community. The Community Hall is available for rentals. Please contact Morgan at 902-921-1118 by phone or email for possible booking dates and further information.

Visit us on Facebook " Hillside Community Hall " for upcoming summer events and notices.

Project Announcement

The Municipality of Pictou County and the Town of Pictou recently launched **Active Steps** - a project to develop an Active Transportation Plan for the Municipality and Town. This plan will aim to enhance the movement of both residents and visitors throughout the region, fostering a healthier and more sustainable community where active transportation is not only safe and practical but also an enjoyable experience for all.



Active Transportation is a broad term that refers to all modes of human-powered transportation, including but not limited to:

- Walking and wheeling (referring to the use of assistive devices)
- Cycling, rollerblading and skateboarding
- Seasonal activities such as kayaking, canoeing, and skiing
- Some motorized forms of transportation such as e-bikes and electric wheelchairs



To learn more about the project and how to participate, scan the QR code or visit www.activestepspectoucounty.ca



Bikes for Kids

**NOW
ACCEPTING**

BICYCLE APPLICATIONS

Application Deadline: Monday August 2, 2024

**Apply online NOW!
Scan the QR Code!**

For more information, please contact
Email: bikesforkids@munpict.ca

or

Phone: (902) 759-9523



Be fire safe this summer



Pictou County's Regional Emergency Management Officer John Davison is urging residents to be extra cautious this year when it comes to open fires.

Broken trees and branches from Fiona and other storms have built up in many areas could add fuel should a wildfire start. Davison says it's important to remember that humans can play a big role in preventing fires.

"It has to have an ignition point. It won't burn on its own."

He encourages residents to check what burn restrictions are in place before considering any fire. Burn restrictions are in place from March 15 to October 15. Burning is not permitted anywhere in the province between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. because that is often when the risk of wildfires is greatest.

The BurnSafe map remains red during those hours every day. Each day at 2 p.m., the map is updated to show the daily restrictions:

Red means burning is not permitted that day
Yellow means burning is permitted after 7 p.m.
Green means burning is permitted after 2 p.m.

People can check daily burn restrictions via the online BurnSafe map at <https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/> or by calling 1-855-564-2876 (BURN). They also need to check municipal bylaws; they take precedence when they are stricter than the provincial restrictions.

When it is safe to burn, Davison suggests burning a small pile. He said people should also make sure there is nothing near the fire that could catch on fire.

Residents should always have a source of water on hand to extinguish the fire if it starts to spread.

"Never leave a fire unattended," he said.

The Province has increased the fine for violating the daily burn restrictions to \$25,000, effective May 16.

"Almost all wildfires in Nova Scotia are human caused. With the weather starting to get warmer and dryer, I cannot stress enough the importance of prevention," said Premier Tim Houston. "That's why we are doubling down on the fine for people who violate the daily burn restrictions. Increasing it to \$25,000 for the entire wildfire season should make people pause, and check and follow the BurnSafe map. Let's not have another season like last year's."

Out of an abundance of caution, the daily burn restrictions now also apply to campgrounds. Open fires like campfires are only permitted after 2 p.m. when the BurnSafe map is green or after 7 p.m. when the map is yellow – just like campfires in people's backyards.

Devices such as gas stoves and charcoal briquette barbecues can still be used any time, following manufacturers' instructions.

A note from the S.A.R.A committee...



Background - Who are we?

Through the winter of 2021 and spring of 2022, the Municipality of Pictou County circulated a survey in the area to see if there was any interest in getting volunteers together to form a functional Association, and to see if they were up to the challenge of re-vitalizing the once very well used, Salem ball field property. Through the information collected in the survey, community meetings were held in the spring of 2022 and a working Association was formed and now goes by the name the Salem and Area Recreation Association (SARA). The Association is made up of elected officers and community members and is operated in accordance with the Bylaws set out by the members. SARA is also registered under Joint Stocks as a non-for-profit organization.

What is the vision for the property? (Past and Future Projects):

The newly formed SARA committee, taking direction from the community members, have set out a multi year-multi phase vision to revitalize the Salem ball field property. This vision includes transforming the property from a singular baseball field to a multi-use recreational and community greenspace that will promote and support the communities needs for exercise, play, social interaction and general well being. Since 2022, SARA has already accomplished multiple projects, including: a hard surface Walking Track, a covered Gazebo seating area and a Playground area.

Looking at 2024, SARA is currently working on completing a 30'x60' Muti-Use Pad that would support such things as Basketball, Road Hockey, Pickleball and Skateboarding. The perimeter of the pad will be fenced, and SARA also plans to instal Armour Stones to separate the parking area from the Playground area. These stones will also provide a safety barrier from vehicles and people playing. Looking further ahead into 2025, SARA does plan to construct a Washroom-Storage building on site now that the municipal water is being installed and sewer will hopefully follow this year or next in the area.

Where does our funding come from?

Most of our funding thus far for the park enhancements have come from community grants given to SARA from the Province and the Municipality. However, there has also been several generous monetary and in-kind donations from community members, local organizations, and businesses, (FYI- Charitable donations and tax receipts can be made available through the Municipality of Pictou County). While Grants and Donations make up most of our funding, we also generate much needed funds for park improvement and maintenance projects by hosting fundraisers at the park. The first event of which is coming up on June 8th, the Spring Fling Market, where we will be welcoming vendors and community members to enjoy a day of great deals! Following that will be Music in the Park on Sunday July 21st, featuring The Island Boys and Fiddlers Amelia Parker & Katey Aucoin! Future events are also being worked on, and will be posted on our Facebook page, so be sure to follow us for fun and exciting updates!

How to get involved?

All of these initiatives would not be possible without community involvement and support. We host public meetings to discuss plans and progress, and new volunteers are always welcome! The committee offers a wide range of interests for its members to be involved in. Whether you are interested in project management, event organization, administrative tasks, social & digital media or just good old fashion volunteer work... the S.A.R.A committee offers it all. Meetings are typically hosted on a monthly basis or as projects deem necessary, times and location will be posted on our Facebook page, and we would love to have you join us!

How to get in touch with us?

If you are interested in coming out to a meeting, volunteering at a event, making a monetary or in-kind donation to help support our efforts, please email SalemAreaRec@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

See you at the park!

The park is open, and we encourage everyone to enjoy the greenspace, attend events and feel free to lend a supportive hand or provide ideas to help rejuvenate this amazing natural resource in our community!

Salem & Area Recreation Association
SalemAreaRec@gmail.com






Municipality of Pictou County,
District 2 Presents

FAMILY

FUN FOR EVERYONE

Day



SATURDAY, June 15, 2024
1-4PM

Little Harbour Community Centre

**FUN
ACTIVITIES
INCLUDE:**

Carnival Games, Bouncy Castle, Introduction to Pickleball, BBQ, Snow Cones, Live Music, Temporary Tattoo Station, Lawn Games

IN THE EVENT OF A RAIN DAY, WE WILL MOVE TO SUNDAY JUNE 16

THE MOPC NETWORK CONTINUES TO CONNECT MORE RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PICTOU COUNTY

Throughout this winter and spring the MOPC Network has been working hard to bring high-speed internet to more areas of Pictou County. We are proud to announce expansion of our fibre and wireless network coverage to bring affordable and high-quality internet connectivity throughout Pictou County.

If you haven't yet taken advantage of our services, now is the perfect time to get connected. Register online at www.MOPCFibreFirst.ca to check your eligibility, and sign-up today. Our installation process is simple and customer-friendly, with no additional cost to you.

Fibre Expansion to More Residents:

We are proud to report the successful completion of the MOPC FibreFirst Network build-out in River John and Toney River. This expansion adds over 500 homes and businesses to the network. This is another step in our ongoing commitment to expand internet access across the county. With this new infrastructure, more households and enterprises can now leverage the unparalleled benefits of our affordable fibre optic network.

Working with Public Safety:

The MOPC Network is partnering with local fire departments throughout Pictou County to bring high-speed internet connectivity to firehalls. By utilizing our tower infrastructure to host fire department radio equipment, we are bridging previous coverage gaps and enhancing public safety communications. This comprehensive approach aims to improve emergency response capabilities, ensuring seamless and reliable communications for our dedicated first responders.

Hiring Locally:

We are excited to announce VistaCare of Nova Scotia as our construction partner. You will see their trucks in the county building our Network. VistaCare's extensive experience and commitment to quality will ensure the rapid and efficient deployment of our fibre network infrastructure. Their expertise is instrumental in driving the high standards of reliability and performance that our customers expect.

We are teaming with another local Nova Scotia company to supply simple and fast in home installation. Bluenose Fibre is responsible for the in-premise installations of our residential and business customers. They will ensure your in-home equipment setup is fast, professionally completed and at no cost to you.

We are proud to be part of the Pictou County community. We strive to make the MOPC Network your choice for internet connectivity. We will keep you updated as we continue to expand our services, and work to make Pictou County the most connected county in Canada.





Built By Us For Us

MOPC Network

Order Your Internet Services Today



Order your fibre internet services today at

www.MOPCFibreFirst.ca

- **Speeds** of up to **1 Gbps**
- **Plans** as low as **\$34.99**
- **You choose the provider**



Order your wireless internet services today at

www.MOPCFirstHome.ca

- Up to **25 Mbps** for **\$49.99**
- Up to **50 Mbps** for **\$79.99**

The MOPC Network is currently available to over 5,000 homes in the county, with new connections being added regularly.