

# *Rural News and Views*


**Newsletter**



**Summer 2025**

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A group of 18 firefighters in full protective gear, including helmets and masks, are posed in two rows. The front row is kneeling, and the back row is standing. They are positioned in front of a large, intense fire that is burning brightly with thick black smoke rising into the sky. To the left of the firefighters is a large, rusted metal container. The background shows a chain-link fence and some greenery.

The 2024-25 Pictou County Firefighter Level One program concluded recently with 18 firefighters completing training. Since the beginning of our local training program, almost 70 of the county's firefighters have been trained to the level one standard. To sign up to become a volunteer firefighter, visit: [www.munpict.ca/departments-and-services/director-of-emergency-services/volunteer-firefighter-recruitment](http://www.munpict.ca/departments-and-services/director-of-emergency-services/volunteer-firefighter-recruitment).

**WWW.MUNPICT.CA**

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# Warden's Summer Message

Many of our 22,000+ residents in rural Pictou County are connected in one way or another to our schools and our education system. Each year of the past nine that I have been honoured to serve as Warden, I have been invited to graduation ceremonies at one of our high schools and that of NSCC.



It is a proud moment for all graduates and their families. Our municipality sponsors these graduation exercises with financial assistance that helps fund bursaries and cover some costs of these ceremonies.

This is your taxpayer's money, being put to good use to enable and encourage our young people to pursue further education or lay the roots of a future career, hopefully here in Pictou County if possible. On behalf of my fellow 11 councillors and our staff, I congratulate all graduates on their success in reaching this goal and wish them success in whatever their future endeavours take them.

Staying with the education theme, I had the opportunity to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for the W.A. MacLeod School in Riverton. Serving much of the East River Valley in MOPC, plus middle school students from Westville and Stellarton. There was a large crowd on hand, bringing back many fond memories and looking forward to helping many young families start new memories over the next 50 years. Special thanks to Councillor Chester Dewar and Principal Ann Findlay for all their hard work organizing this wonderful event.

If you travel in the Plymouth or MacLellan's Brook area to New Glasgow and Stellarton, you will notice a brand-new sidewalk. It was a long time coming, partly due to the high expense of the project and the lack of financial partners to share that cost with our Municipality. We thank the provincial government for stepping forward to assist us with 50 percent of the cost. We continue to have some concerns over crosswalks at some of the busy and lengthy intersections. Good lighting and drivers being alert will help to keep everyone safe.

It has been a difficult spring for all of Pictou County and beyond with the disappearance of little ones, Jack and Lilly, from their home in a very rural part of Pictou County, Lansdowne Station. We want to thank all those who gave it their all to find our little ones -- search and rescue teams from all over Nova Scotia, RCMP, N.S. Guard, Salvation Army and many more. You are all our heroes. Please keep little Lilly and Jack, and their loved ones, in your hearts and prayers.

On behalf of our Council, I want to wish all residents of our rural County, an enjoyable, restful, healthy and safe summer. Please look out for each other and keep our County clean.

**Warden Robert Parker**

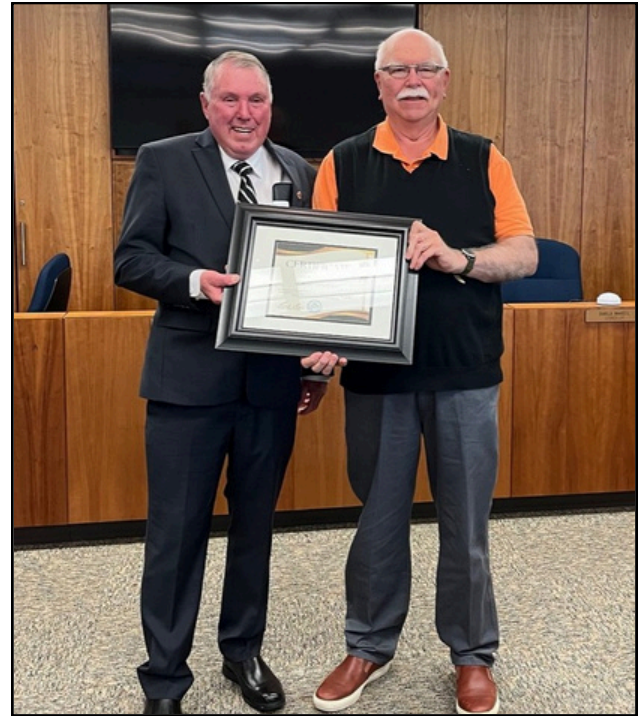


# Paving the way

Work is progressing steadily on new sidewalks in Blue Acres. The new sidewalks were approved by Council for the Municipality of Pictou County during their March 3 Council meeting. The contract was awarded to B.D. Clifton for \$863,500.00. Warden Robert Parker said they are grateful to have support for the project. The Province of Nova Scotia contributed \$515,801.00 from its Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program. When finished, the sidewalks will connect the stretch of land between New Glasgow and Stellarton, giving residents of the county and those towns a safe route to travel year-round.



Warden Robert Parker and Carissa Ainslie, chair of Pictou County Pride, raised a flag in recognition of Pride month on June 16 at the MOPC Admin Building.



Charlie Strickland was recognized for his 29 years of service with the Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue at the June Council meeting.

## 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



# Royal recognition



Two MOPC employees have been named King Charles III Coronation Medal recipients. Jennifer Boyce (Accounting/Payroll Clerk) received the medal in recognition of her contributions as a volunteer with Girl Guides of Canada, NS Council. Evan Hale (Director of Emergency Services) has also been named as a recipient. In addition to his work with the MOPC, Evan is a volunteer with the Alma Fire Department.

## Looking for a landfill voucher?

**Landfill vouchers from the MOPC are available from May 1st to Nov. 30. Get yours at the MOPC office or by mail. Call 902 485-4311 for more information.**

## How can we help?

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

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

The MOPC's GeoHub is a great way for residents to find out about our services such as building permits or to submit a bylaw complaint. Check it out at <https://mopc-pictoucounty.hub.arcgis.com>

## MOPC COUNCIL

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### DISTRICT 12 CHESTER DEWAR

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### MOPC WEBSITE:

[WWW.MUNPICT.CA](http://WWW.MUNPICT.CA)



# PICTOU COUNTY RECREATION SWIMMING LESSONS

CARIBOU BEACH: JULY 2<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>  
LISMORE BEACH: JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> - AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>  
MACDONALD'S COVE: AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> - AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>

**\$15/CHILD**

**AGES 5 AND UP! (GROUP LESSONS)**

**AGES 3-4 (PARENT & TOT)**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

SCAN QR CODE OR CONTACT  
PICTOU COUNTY RECREATION

902-485-2244

[SWIMMING@MUNPICT.CA](mailto:SWIMMING@MUNPICT.CA)





**Bikes For Kids**

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!**  
APPLICATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2025

To apply, scan the QR code, follow the link posted to our Facebook page, or drop in to the CN Station on Mondays from 6:00pm-8:00pm for In-Person Applications & On-the-Spot Bike Matching!

For more information, please contact:  
mopc.bikes@munpict.ca  
bikesforkids@munpict.ca  
(902)-759-5897

**Municipality of Pictou County**  
Incorporated 1878  
NOVA SCOTIA

**Bikes For Kids**

# 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	902-923-2394	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





# Switch MOPC Program

Assisting your transition to a more energy efficient home.



## Thinking About a Home Energy Upgrade?

If you are looking to upgrade your home with a heat pump, solar panels, insulation, or more, calling Switch MOPC is a great place to start. Offered by the Municipality of Pictou County, our Energy Concierge team can answer any of your home efficiency questions, help you navigate rebates and financing, and support you with contractor selection and next steps. We are here to make the process simple, from first call to finished upgrade.



## Switch MOPC Provides



### Energy Retrofit Guidance

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 more!



### Energy Concierge Service

A personal Energy Concierge available by phone or email to answer any of your questions and make the retrofit process easy.



### Financing

Flexible fixed interest financing to remove upfront costs associated with completing energy efficiency upgrades.

## Contact your Energy Concierge to learn more!

They can help you identify what will work best for your home and needs.



**(902) 334-4227**





# Bringing You Faster Internet, More Options, and Stronger Connections

We're excited to share what we've been working on across Pictou County. At MOPC Network, we believe rural communities deserve the same high-quality internet service as anyone else — and we're making that happen, one connection at a time.

## Fibre Construction Update

Our FibreFirst build is moving full steam ahead! Crews are actively working over 20 communities. To find out if you are in one of the communities and pre-register for services, go to [www.MOPCNetwork.ca](http://www.MOPCNetwork.ca). Once construction is complete, pre-registered homes will be first in line for installation.



## FirstHome Wireless: Now Even Better

For our customers in wireless coverage areas, we've begun rolling out upgraded new next-generation fixed wireless system which will dramatically improve speed, stability, and coverage — especially in areas with tough terrain or long distances from towers. We're proud to be one of the first networks in the region to offer this cutting-edge service.



## Gateway Swap in Progress

As part of our commitment to quality internet, we're swapping out existing gateways for newer, faster models. While the initial shipments have taken a little longer than expected, don't worry — yours will be arriving soon. We'll continue reaching out to customers over the coming weeks to arrange swaps and make sure you're getting the best possible performance.



## Earn Credits with Our Referral Program

We're building more than a network — we're building community. And now, we want to thank you for helping us grow. When you refer a friend to MOPC Network and they sign up for service, you get a \$50 account credit and they get \$25. It's our way of saying thanks for spreading the word.

## Come Say Hello!

We love getting out into the community, and this summer you'll find us at local community events. Stop by to say hi, pick up some MOPC swag, and chat with our team about service in your area. Whether you're already a customer or just curious about what we offer, we're happy to connect.



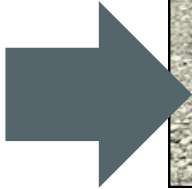
**Thank you for trusting MOPC Network to keep you connected.  
We're proud to be your local provider, and we're working hard every day  
to bring you the internet service you deserve.**

**We're launching a new MOPC Network newsletter soon  
Watch your email and social media for an invite to subscribe.**

**Visit [www.MOPCNetwork.ca](http://www.MOPCNetwork.ca) to check availability,  
manage your account, or refer a friend.**

# New digs

A groundbreaking ceremony was held April 25, 2025, for the new Valley View Villa, which will be located on River Road in Plymouth. The new home will feature 144 private rooms and is expected to open in 2027.



## 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.





## Davis Day service

A service was held in Stellarton this morning for the 100th anniversary of the William Davis Miners' Memorial Day. Davis Day is observed every year on June 11 in mining communities. It is a time to remember all miners who were killed while working in mines. The guest speaker for the event was Judith Hoegg Ryan. Warden Robert Parker attended and laid a wreath during the service.

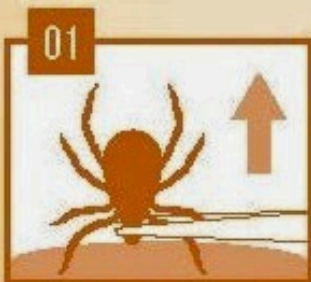
# COMING SOON

THE EAST PICTOU RURAL FAIR  
RETURNS

## AUGUST 14-17 2025

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

## HOW TO REMOVE A TICK



01 Use clean fine-point tweezers to slowly pull it straight out.



02 Wash the bite area with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitizer.



03 Contact your health care provider if you are not feeling well.

For more information, including detailed tick removal steps, visit [Canada.ca/LymeDisease](https://Canada.ca/LymeDisease)



# Ed Kennedy named Volunteer of the Year

PICTOU - River John resident Ed Kennedy is the 2025 Municipality of Pictou County Volunteer of the Year.

Kennedy, along with other nominees and community groups, was honoured during a Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Pictou County Wellness Centre on April 29.

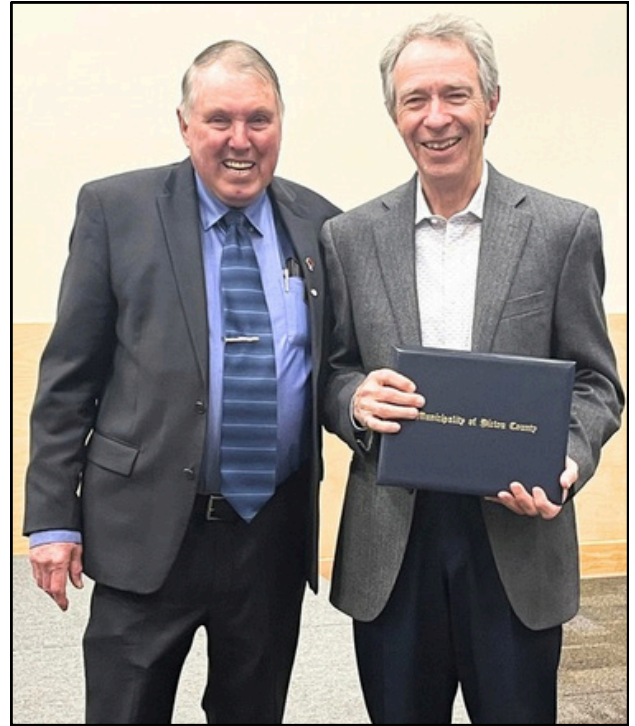
“Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our community,” said Warden Robert Parker. “They are what keep our fire departments, community halls and other organizations going. Everything is dependent on those volunteers.”

That’s why he believes it’s so important to recognize their efforts.

“It’s a real pleasure for our municipality to be able to sit down with a good group of them to show our appreciation on behalf of all our residents for all the work they do all year,” Parker said.

Kennedy has spent much of his life volunteering with various groups but has been particularly busy since retiring.

Kennedy has been a dedicated volunteer with the Municipality of Pictou County’s Climate Change Awareness Committee since it was first formed five years ago and is now Vice Chair.



**Warden Robert Parker with Volunteer of the Year Ed Kennedy.**

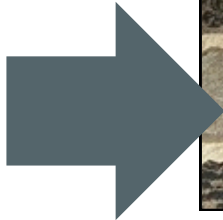


**Volunteers from various organizations were recognized for their contributions during the MOPC’s annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. Pictured are some of this year’s Volunteer of the Year nominees. From left in back are: Mira Dewar, Ed Kennedy, Cathy Lavers, Betty Lou Scott (former Volunteer of the Year), Dominic Boyd, Beulah Martell, Warden Robert Parker, Shelley MacDonald, Jeff Dewtie, Claudette Campbell and Lorrie Fulton. Kneeling – Amy Fraser, Raina McDonald, June Hill and Carly Barsness.**



# Happy retirement!

District 5 Councillor Wayne Murray presented a certificate to Jim and Carolyn Gunning in recognition of 39 years of dedicated service to the community as owners of the Lobster Pot and congratulating them on their retirement.



## Stay informed with MOPC Alert

In 2024 The Municipality of Pictou County added a new tool to communicate with residents, MOPC Alert.

MOPC Alert is used to send our residents alerts about upcoming severe weather, comfort center locations and operating times. MOPC Alert is also used to inform Municipal water customers when there are boil water advisories or other water-related issues that may be relevant. You can also sign up for notifications about MOPC hosted public meetings or for our e-newsletter.

MOPC Alert will only be used to provide precautionary information. It will NOT be used to convey information that would otherwise be sent through the Nova Scotia Public Alerting System (Alert Ready).

Residents can choose what they want to be notified about and how they would like to be notified.

Only those who sign up will receive notifications. To sign up visit [www.tinyurl.com/mr3vx8dt](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr3vx8dt) or scan the QR code in the image to the right.

### MOPC ALERT



**Scan the QR Code to sign up  
for alerts from the MOPC  
that matter to you!**



# District 9 Community update

With the longer days, blooming gardens, and rising temperatures, summer is making its entrance! It's a wonderful time to get outdoors and enjoy everything our beautiful community has to offer. Whether you're hitting the trails, tending your garden, or spending time at the beach I hope you make the most of the season safely.

With the warmer weather and the summer months ahead, the ticks are active and here to stay. The impacts of tick-borne diseases can be debilitating and life changing. The number of ticks is steadily increasing in our area, and they are anywhere where you have trees, long grass and vegetation. This is why doing tick checks when you come inside is very important. And remember to check your pets as well. Education is the key. For more information, including how to remove and dispose of ticks safely, visit <http://www.novascotia.ca/ticksafety>.

There has been a noticeable increase in coyote activity and sighting throughout District 9. Coyotes typically give birth to their pups between April and May. Please take caution, stay alert especially when walking pets or letting them out in your yard. Secure garbage and avoid feeding wildlife. If you encounter a coyote, do not run; stay calm, instead, make noise and back away slowly. To report a nuisance coyote phone 1-800-565-2224.

I have received numerous community complaints regarding speeding vehicles in our area. This is especially concerning in areas where children are at play. I urge all drivers to please slow down, and respect posted speed limits. The RCMP are aware of the situation and are actively working on addressing the issue. Please continue to drive safely and report any dangerous driving behavior to the authorities. Let's keep our neighborhoods safe.

Regarding roads and infrastructure for District 9.

A formal request for a meeting with our Pictou East MLA, Tim Houston has been submitted. While I received a written response outlining road improvement plans, I am still waiting on a confirmed date and time to discuss these issues further in person. I will keep residents informed on updates or when a meeting time becomes available. Since most roads in our rural areas are under provincial control, meeting with our MLA is necessary to address our road problems and how we fix them.



**Steve Stewart, centre, was recognized for 27 years of service with the Linacy Fire Dept.**

Here in District 9, we are incredibly fortunate to have so many generous and hardworking volunteers who give their time, talent, and energy to improving our community. Your work doesn't go unnoticed and it is deeply appreciated!

The Linacy Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary continues to go above and beyond in supporting our community. This group of women conducts several fundraising and support projects every year, and their efforts truly strengthen our fire department and community spirit.

Congratulations to Steve Stewart! Steve was recognized for an outstanding 27 years of service with the Linacy Fire Department. Your decades of commitment and bravery serve as an inspiration to us all. Congratulations, Steve, and thank you for your service!

Another special thank you goes to the volunteers at Hillside Hall and our wonderful Friday night musicians. Your continued dedication brings entertainment, joy, and a strong sense of community week after week.

I encourage all District 9 residents to support these local initiatives. Whether it's attending a fundraiser, donating, or simply spreading the word—every bit helps. Let's continue to uplift and celebrate the volunteers who make our community strong, connected, and caring.

Have a fun safe summer!

Sincerely:

Peter Boyles,

Municipal Pictou County Councillor – District 9

Phone: 902-759-7976

Email: [peter.boyles@munpict.ca](mailto:peter.boyles@munpict.ca)





Councillor Donnie Parker ran the 10 K event at the Johnny Miles on June 15. He was joined at the event by his daughter Kelly, and granddaughter, Kadence, who both ran in the 5 K event.



Pictured left is 94-year-old Francis Sutherland of Alma, who completed the 5 K at the Johnny Miles on June 15. With her is Theresa Welsh, who works in the Finance Department at the Municipality of Pictou County and completed her first 5 K.



**Did you know that the Municipality of Pictou County has a list of local farms?**

**You can find it online at:  
<https://pictou-county-farms-pictoucounty.hub.arcgis.com>**

**If you're a Pictou County farm producer and would like to be included on this list, please email [adam.macinnis@munpict.ca](mailto:adam.macinnis@munpict.ca).**

# 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.

**You could be fined \$25,000**  
**if you do not follow**  
**Provincial restrictions**