

# Rural News and Views

46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, Nova Scotia - Winter 2020



Thanks to Wendy Doggett for her photo submission of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Salt Springs. She is a member of the local photography group SNAPS that can be found online at www. https://www.facebook.com/groups/scotsburnphotography/



Betty Lou Scott will be honoured during a provincial ceremony in Halifax in April.

## Betty Lou Scott named 2020 Volunteer of the Year for the Municipality of Pictou County

Betty Lou Scott is described as the driving force behind the Salt Springs 4-H Club. Her leadership and dedication to 4-H has kept the Salt Springs Club vibrant. She has also volunteered with 4-H in Pictou County as well as being a voting delegate at a provincial level. In addition to 4H, she is also a volunteer with St. Luke's United Church, the Angus Association and the Upper Mount Thom Cemetery. She is also the first recipient to receive the Atlantic Women of Agriculture Award during the Farm Woman's Conference in 2017 and past recipient of the Rosemary Davis Award for her lifelong involvement and commitment to agriculture and 4H. Congratulations Betty Lou!

# Municipal Staff Directory

Chief Administrative Officer
Brian Cullen
brian.cullen@munpict.ca
Deputy Clerk
Carolyn MacIntosh
carolyn.macintosh@munpict.ca

#### **Communications**

Sueann Musick sueann.musick@munpict.ca

Deputy Municipal Treasurer Karen Cornish

karen.cornish@munpict.ca

#### **Public Works**

**Finance Office** 

Ebon MacMillan
Public Works Director
ebon.macmillan@munpict.ca
By-law Officer
Anne MacCarthy
anne.maccarthy@munpict.ca
GIS Technician
Kevin Burley
kevin.burley@munpict.ca

#### **Building Inspection**

Mike McKenzie mike.mckenzie@munpict.ca

#### Recreation

Cindy Fraser cindy.fraser@munpict.ca Clare Steele clare.steel@munpict.ca

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

We are located at: 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, NS, BOK 1H0

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

#### A Message from Warden Robert Parker

It is highly unlikely that the citizens of Pictou County will soon forget the beginning of the new decade.

It was a time of great uncertainty, both economically and socially, in our County. The Premier's announcement on Dec. 20, which effectively closed the local pulp mill for the foreseeable future, was a great relief to many and great anxiety and distress for many more.



It will, undoubtedly, see some serious economic consequences for individuals losing good paying jobs and many small or medium sized companies seeing drops in revenue that could lead to more job losses. We are a divided County with deep feelings on both sides. These wounds are still fresh and will take time to heal.

While most everyone supports closing Boat Harbour and cleaning up the mess, we must now, first, support those individuals, whether employees of the mill or the bigger forestry industry to weather the storm. A storm brought on by no fault of their own that could have been avoided.

We have to take a positive attitude and work hard to maintain what we have left of the forestry industry and start down the road of a different model that is environmentally sustainable but also creates good paying jobs and treats our forests with care that will still be a valuable resource for our children and grandchildren.

Our council is putting a lot of trust in our REN (Regional Economic Network) to help assist with the immediate future and help plan and develop long term future of our valuable forestry sector. They plan to call together all members of the sector to explore short and long-term solutions. The real answers will come from experts, those working in the industry now, along with new technology to create new products and new processes.

A big step toward that high-tech future is our planned new high-speed internet, including cell service, for all rural Pictou County. This will be a major tool to draw new business to our rural communities while at the same time encouraging more residents to stay and new ones to settle here.

Our Municipality is taking a brave step by implementing our own high-speed internet network. Rather than large companies building the network, the Municipality will own it and profits from the service offerings will be returned to us to fund future projects and help keep our tax rate reasonable. We are committed to not raising taxes for this system, it is designed to pay its own bills, both capital and operating.

Sincerely, Warden Robert Parker Coun. District 6



Did someone say they are bored? Well get on your boots and get some snowshoes from the Municipality of Pictou County. We have several sets available for free rentals. Just call Clare Steele in our recreation department at 902-485-2247 to book an appointment to take them out and enjoy them.



 Did you know if you register your dog with the Municipality of Pictou County you will receive a free dog leash? Registration is \$10 for the life of the neutered/spayed dog and if the tag is lost, there is a \$1 replacement fee.

#### Who Do You Call?

TIR OPERATIONS CONTACT CENTRE: Since the majority of roads are provincially owned, one avenue of contact is through your local MLA's office, but you can also contact the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal's Operations Contact Centre which is open 24 hours, seven days a week. The Operations Contact Centre can be reached locally at 902-755-7060 or toll-free at 1-844-696-7737. Emails can be sent to tir-occ@novacscotia.ca.

**MOPC PUBLIC WORKS:** If emergency assistance is required in rural Pictou County for issues regarding water, wastewater or municipal roads, please call:

PUBLIC WORKS – 902-485-4085 between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. If there is not a Public Works staff member in the office to immediately answer your call, it will be transferred to voicemail and a second number will be available for emergency calls. It is 902-301-1825 and this phone is carried by a Public Works staff member 24/7.

# Councillors with the Municipality of Pictou County

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 Ronald Baillie 902-351-2764 ronald.baillie@munpict.ca District 5 Wayne Murray 902-485-9194 wayne.murray@munpict.ca District 6 Robert Parker 902-925-2240 robert.parker@munpict.ca District 7 David Parker 902-396-3481 david.parker@munpict.ca **District 8 Larry Turner** 902-752-6741 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 902-695-2356 andy.thompson@munpict.ca District 12 Chester Dewar 902-923-2931

Municipality of Pictou County www.county.pictou.ns.ca

chester.dewar@munpict.ca

#### Our Council in Our Communities



Warden Robert Parker, left, and District 11 Coun. Andy Thompson present Kim Goodfellow and Cathy Hay of the East River Valley Fire Department with a plaque of recognition for their success in securing government funding to place solar panels on the roof of the fire hall.



Warden Robert Parker, left, and District 11 Coun. Andy Thompson presents Ruth Thompson and Janet MacDonald with a plaque of recognition in honour of the Plymouth Community Center's recent success in installing solar panels on its building.



District 9 Coun. Peter Boyles presented his uncle Fraser Boyles with a plaque of recognition from the Municipality of Pictou County in honour of his 95th Birthday. Mr. Fraser is a veteran who served overseas in the Second World War.



It's time to celebrate the good work of Women's Institutes. Warden Robert Parker officially declared Feb. 16-22, 2020 as Women's Institute Week. Here, Eleanor Lilley, left, Provincial WI President and Ann Munro, WI District President, right, were on hand for the signing with Warden Parker.

MOPC Council meetings are the first Monday of each month and property and finance meetings are the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou. Everyone is welcome to attend.



The Municipality of Pictou County raised the Pan African Flag in honour of African Heritage Month. In attendance at the event were, from the left, Brian Bowden, MOPC Deputy Warden Wayne Murray, Crystal States, African Nova Scotia North-Central Network; Brenda Bowden and MOPC CAO Brian Cullen.

#### **Deadlines to Remember**

Municipal Grant Applications for the 2020/21 fiscal period are now available. Funding awarded under this policy is intended for the non-profit sector and charitable organizations that provide community-based programs and services which replace, supplement, or compliment a municipal mandate and provide benefits to one or more Council district or the entire Municipality. Applications must be returned no later than February 28. Interested applicants may obtain a copy of the Municipality's Municipal Grants Program Policy and application form from our website at www.county.pictou.ns.ca.

Low Income Assistance: Residents in the Municipality of Pictou who earned a total income of less than \$25,000 in 2019 are eligible for a tax exemption. Details on the low-income tax exemptions with respect to taxable property in the Municipality of Pictou County are provided below. The application form can be downloaded on our website at www.county.pictou.ns.ca or they can be picked up at the administration building for submissions of applications: March 31, 2020.



Brian Bowden, president of Viola's Place Society's board of directors, stands with District One Coun. Don Butler following a presentation at a senior's outreach luncheon in Lismore.



Municipality of Pictou County Warden Robert Parker attended the 100th birthday celebrations for Hector MacKenzie. Warden Parker presented Mr. MacKenzie with a plaque from the MOPC in recognition of his milestone birthday.

#### **Active Living in Pictou County**



The recreation departments in Pictou County are hosting a six-month multi-sport program that will allow children in grades primary and one to try a new activity led by community sport organizations. This year's program will take place in Pictou West except for a session at the Pictou County Gymnastics Club and is open to everyone within these age groups. Here children learn karate under the guidance of Cherry Whitaker.



Local school children were given the opportunity to try sledge hockey at the Hector Arena. Local recreation is looking at hosting another event in the winter which will be announced on our sites in the future.



Leanne and Isla Works get on the ice with some help from Isla's uncle Jason MacDonald during a free skate hosted by the Municipality of Pictou County in Thorburn.



MOPC Recreation helped with a fun day at Trenton Park that allowed newcomers and friends enjoy the recent snowfall. The event included snowshoeing, sledding, cross-country skiing and much more.



District 1's 10th Annual Fitness Challenge took place in Lismore again this year.

**Sports Funding Assistance:** Kidsport application deadlines are out for 2020. March 1, May 2, July 2, September 1, October 1 and November 2. Apply for up to \$300 in funding to offset your child's registration/equipment fees: http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/novasco.../apply-for-assistance/#SoALLKidsCanPlay.

Assistance is also available through Jumpstart at: https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/apply. More information is also available by calling Cindy Fraser at 902-485-8528.

#### Smart meter upgrades to begin locally in March

Nova Scotia Power will be upgrading current electricity meters to smart meters in the Pictou-area between March - June 2020. When the rollout of smart meters is complete in early 2021, NSP will begin turning on the smart technology for customers to start taking advantage of the following benefits:

- \* Access to daily information on energy usage and notifications, helping residents manage their electricity costs.
- \* Connecting or disconnecting the electricity will be easier and faster with no on-site appointment required.
- \* Smart meters will notify NSP when the power goes out, helping customers respond more quickly in the event of an outage. In most cases, meters are located outside so residents don't need to be present when the work is done (the upgrade will occur sometime between 8 am and dusk, Monday to Friday). The entire process takes less than 15 minutes and there will be a momentary loss of power. Customers are notified in advance of NSP making upgrades in their communities. Information is sent through the mail and with bills. Information is also left with the home or business owner, the day the smart meter upgrade takes place.



Need more information? Visit nspower.ca/smartmeters or email us at smartmeterinfo@nspower. ca. Our Customer Care team can be reached at 1-800-428-6230.

#### **District 9 News**

I brought forward to Council the idea for an ad hoc climate change committee and a motion was passed in November for Council to look at climate change initiatives locally that could make a difference. In December, I gave a presentation to Council regarding my attendance at a Lyme Disease Conference in Bridgewater. Nova Scotia has a high percentage of ticks that carry Lyme disease and it needs to be taken seriously by everyone.

The condition of our roads continues to be an ongoing problem. Most roads in our rural areas are under provincial control, but I will work with you to advocate and pressure TIR and provincial representatives to come look at your road issue. In November safety concerns were discussed by council with TIR Area Manager Greg Chisholm regarding the Trenton Connector and Abercrombie Road intersection. Mr. Chisholm believes that some changes will be made and presently they are waiting for the official signs to come through.

I was honoured to present my uncle Fraser Boyles, a veteran of the Second World War, with a plaque of recognition from the Municipality of Pictou County in honour of his 95th Birthday. The Hillside Community Centre officially opened its doors on Dec. 15 with a photo presentation by Clyde Macdonald and Philip MacKenzie. The Hillside Community Society has worked extremely hard for this day and the opening of their community centre.

Thank you to the Linacy Fire Department and lady's auxiliary for their continued service to our community. The Linacy Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary conduct many successful projects every year in support of the fire department. On behalf of District 9, I want to thank all the volunteers, you are the heart of our community and your services are highly valued.

Thank you, District 9 Coun. Peter Boyles - Email: peter.boyles@munpict.ca

### COMMUNITY GROUP CONTACTS

Abercrombie Community Centre -902-752-8914

Abercrombie Women's Institute – 902-752-3826

Caribou Women's Institute – 902-485-8212/902-382-2009

Durham Community Hall - 902-485-4917

Hillside Girls Club – 902-755-1801

Hillside Community Centre - 902-755-3938

Little Harbour Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary – 902-755-2103/ 902-759-0212/ 902-395-8224

Lyons Brook Women's Institute – 902-485-9358.

MacPherson's Mills Women's Institute – 902-922-2059

Meadowville-Poplar Hill Community Hall - 902-485-4647/902-485-8845

Mill Brook Community Centre- 902-755-2820/902-306-4275/902-396-3798.

#### **Hillside Community Hall Opens its Doors**

The Hillside Community Hall held its grand opening on December 15, 2019. It was a great day for the community and for all the volunteers that worked so hard to make this dream a reality. The community hall has been a busy place throughout this winter. It held a New Year's Eve party and a Valentine dance that were huge successes. We had an indoor yard sale in early February, and it is now selling tickets on an Easter basket valued at \$200. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Draw date will be April 9th.

The hall will be having St. Patrick's Day Dance March 14th, 8p.m.-1a.m., \$10 per person and an Easter Dance on April 9th, 8p.m.-1a.m., \$10 per person. Cash bar only. Must be 19 years of age to attend. The Hillside Community Hall is available to rent for social events such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, etc. Hillside Community Society monthly meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. They are open to everyone. Visit it on Facebook "Hillside Community Hall "for upcoming events and notices. Contact person - Sadie at 902-755-3938 or email - sadie.boyles@gmail.com.

#### **District 7 News**

I wish to thank the residents of the district, from the suburbs of Westville to the County line in Mt. Thom, for their continued support. It remains a privilege to work to solve our issues. Our most pressing challenge currently is the county's effort to bring true high-speed internet services to our homes. We are making progress and announcements will be made soon. This project has the greatest potential to improve our community.

The Communications Committee, of which I am a member, has worked diligently to bring this vital project to fruition. A group of active volunteers has been busy over the last several months renovating and upgrading the Watervale Recreation Association Hall. The old washrooms have been completely replaced, the kitchen area renovated, upgrades to the heating system, etc. Soon we can look forward to this again becoming the hub of the community. Call Erinn Wright (902-754-2690) to offer your help. Finally, I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to Don Thomson of New Gairloch who has been instrumental in helping to raise funds and manage the project to replace his neighbour's roof. Such generosity is a fine example of what makes this such a wonderful place to live.

Take Care, District 7 Coun. David Parker Email: david.parker@munpict.ca

#### **District 11 News**

along with donations has fueled much needed capital improvements in District 11. Through the hard work and dedication of volunteers, over \$470,000 has been invested in community halls and recreation facilities in this district. In addition to these projects, the Plymouth Fire Department successfully completed a hall expansion recently. Our rural communities require accessible, up-to-date amenities like washrooms, ramps and entrances and solar electricity projects. Some of the projects include: Garden of Eden Community Hall \$107,000 (addition for new washrooms, renovated kitchen, heat pumps); Bridgeville Community Club -\$65,000 (addition for washrooms & kitchen, doors and ramp); IOOF Hall #108 Lodge - \$15,000 (new roof, fascia, soffits and gutters); Springville Church Hall - \$43,000 (new roof, siding, insulation, doors and windows); Springville Church Hall -\$71,500 (new septic field and new addition to house kitchen); East River Valley Recreation - \$50,000 (court resurfacing, rec hall improvements, back stop replacement, walking track upgrades); Plymouth Community Centre - \$122,000 (floor replacement, chairs, table, audio visual, entrance ramp, PV solar panel installation).

Over the past four years funding from all levels of government

As well, the East River Valley Fire Department was successful in its application for solar panels through a provincial program and it will install the system this coming spring which will help offset its energy costs.

Lastly, I am thankful for the announcement from the provincial government on the replacement of the Springville Bridge. After lobbying the Minister and senior staff, this was announced as one of 12 bridges to be replaced in the province under this year's capital plan.

Sincerely, District 11 Coun. Andy Thompson Email: andy.thompson@munpict.ca



# Are You Checking Us Out Online?



CARMA makes a difference in the local feral cat population



Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena Celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

There is plenty
more to see at:
www.county.pictou.ns.ca
Facebook/Twitter:
Municipality
of Pictou County



Congratulations to Mike McKenzie, left, building inspector for the Municipality of Pictou County, on receiving his 25 years of service award. He was presented a certificate in recognition of his service by MOPC Warden Robert Parker.



#### STRATEGIES FOR RESILIENCE:

FINDING OUR STRENGTHS IN A STRONG COMMUNITY

With

#### **Dr. Michael Ungar**

We all understand that our mental health should not be taken for granted. But do we know the factors that contribute to wellbeing?

Join us for this event with Dr. Michael Ungar as he shares the science of resilience and what really works.

Dr. Michael Ungar is Director of the Resilience Research Centre at Dalhousie University and a Canada Research Chair in Child. Family and Community Resilience. His new book is called Change Your World: The Science of Resi

#### Thursday February 27 7:00 - 9:00pm

Pictou County Wellness Centre Advocate Room

#### **Presented by**

Central & East Pictou Community Health Board, Pictou West Community Health Board and Seniors Outreach

#### With funding support from

Aberdeen Health Foundation • SchoolsPlus Pictou County East & Pictou County West Municipalities of Pictou, New Glasgow, Trenton, Stellarton, Westville & Pictou County

#### **District 3 News**

I would like to thank the residents of District 3 for the honour and privilege of representing them. It is something that I don't take lightly and appreciate the opportunity to be their voice on council. It's hard to believe that I have been part of council for almost four years. I believe there has been much accomplished by our council and in District 3. I am proud of many projects and issues that council has tackled this term showing leadership, forward thinking and compassion. I am very proud of council's work with the rural internet project. As chair of the Ad Hoc Communications Committee, I want to thank our committee, made up of elected officials, residents of our county and staff, for their hard work on this project. I believe this project will have great benefit not only to our residents but the entire county. I would also like to thank the volunteers in our county, especially those of District 3. For without your hard work and involvement we would not have fire departments who keep our communities safe, beautiful halls to hold our events, and things to attend! Thank you for your hard work and continued support of our communities. As 2020 is now well underway, I wish our residents all the best and our communities continued success this year. I look forward to the year ahead and will continue to do my best for the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

Thank you, District 3 Coun. Darla MacKeil Email: darla.mackeil@munpict.ca The Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue meetings are every second Wednesday of the month at Alma Fire Hall at 7 pm. The organization's main mandate is to "find the Lost Person". However, we are partner with the Project Lifesaver Association of Nova Scotia – clients wear a transmitter bracelet serviced by trained team members and AdventureSmart – a program that teaches Hug-a-Tree which our members are qualified to teach to children. See more information on our website indicated below and contact by Gmail address to join.

The Year was a productive one for our *charitable volunteer* organization:

**Searches** – 6 call outs to local and where other Nova Scotia GSAR teams required assistance.

**Training** – approximately 1200 hours of training completed by our team members.

**Fundraising and Recruiting** – approximately 638 hours of volunteer fundraising as we must raise funds for equipment, vehicles and buildings as well as training costs and upfront search expenses. **Project Lifesaver** - approximately 127 hours of volunteer time to do battery changes on the transmitter bracelets for clients in the Pictou County area.

https://pcvgsar.wixsite.com/pictou Facebook: Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue or Contact: pcvgsar@gmail.com



# Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue

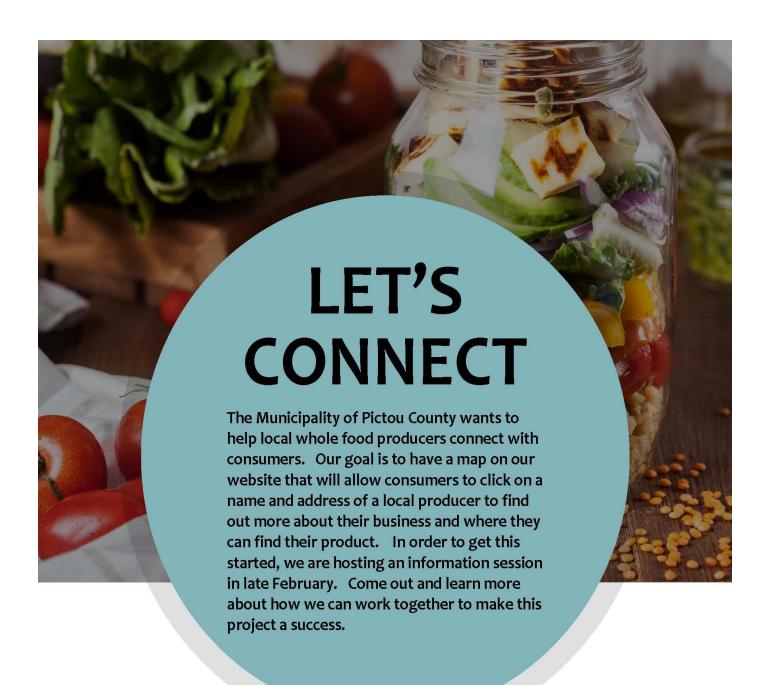
Upcoming
Fundraiser:
Whitetail Pub and
Grill Saturday, Feb. 29
starting at 6 pm.
Bands: Fully
Completely Hip, Mike
and the MacPhersons,
Double Jim and Tonic,
Billy Bell Band, Scott
Hill & the Eldorado
Band. \$10.00
minimum donation at
the door per person.

#### **District 8 News**

Municipal governments have always faced challenges. Whether they are financial, citizen engagement or transparency, councillors and staff are constantly engaged in trying to improve the circumstances and environments that their citizens live. Our county council meets once per year away from our chambers in an informal setting without the constraints of legislative protocols to discuss the direction our county is heading. We met recently and had considerable discussion about the county's strategic plan on how to move forward. We have determined that our rural broadband initiative is of the greatest importance to the county. Other topics discussed are capital planning, inter-municipal co-operation, accessibility and communication. One exciting possibility is the county's ability to have open two-way communication with its citizens. We are exploring new ways to engage with the citizens. This will give the county the ability to hear more completely what the citizens concerns are and to better reflect those wishes in policy and initiatives. The East River Road business park has a new and important business so stay tuned for details. The councillors continue to sit on a variety of boards around the county and represent it well. As we head into the election in the fall, I would encourage all residents to participate and bring concerns forward so the county can continue to move forward in way that represents the best interest of its citizens.

Sincerely,

District 8 Coun. Larry Turner. Email: larry.turner@munpict.ca



#### **Local Whole Food Producers Information Session**

Thursday, March 5, 2020 -6:30 p.m.

Municipality of Pictou County

Council Chambers - 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou

www.county.pictou.ns.ca