



# Rural News and Views

**46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, Nova Scotia - Summer 2020**



**Our Administration Building is open to the public, but social distancing rules are in place to protect us all from COVID-19.**

**Only two people are allowed at the finance counter at one time and up to five people can wait in the lobby. If more than five people are in the lobby, please wait in your vehicle until the next available spot opens.**

**Tax bills can be paid via online banking or a cheque in the mail. Landfill vouchers can be mailed to you by calling our office.**

**All our departments including, building inspections, bylaw officer, recreation and public works, can be reached by phone for information and appointments.**

On behalf of myself, council, and staff, I hope you all are in good health. We know these times are difficult for many people, especially those who are suffering from serious diseases. Many health-related services have been put on hold because of COVID-19 and hopefully as restrictions are lifted people who require health care services outside of COVID-19 will get the help they need.

We have been fortunate to have low numbers of COVID-19 cases here and especially blessed it has not entered our senior's homes.

We have been working to find ways to ease the burden of paying taxes if someone's income has been seriously affected by COVID-19. Most of the Municipality's revenue comes from property taxes which allows us to pay bills and provide services. All our residents and businesses that can afford to pay their taxes should do so to help the County with its financial obligations.

Our high-speed internet project is continuing, but it is taking a considerable amount of time to work through the preparatory and regulatory maze to start construction. I am also frustrated by the Province's refusal to acknowledge its missteps and help us with this major investment.

I hope all of you have an enjoyable summer with lots of time to think about how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful place and to think how we can better help each other.

*Sincerely,  
Warden Robert Parker*

## Municipal Staff

### Directory

Chief Administrative Officer

Brian Cullen

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

Deputy Clerk

Carolyn MacIntosh

[carolyn.macintosh@munpict.ca](mailto:carolyn.macintosh@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

Public Works

902-301-1825

By-law Officer

Anne MacCarthy

[anne.maccarthy@munpict.ca](mailto:anne.maccarthy@munpict.ca)

902-485-8640

GIS Technician

Kevin Burley

[kevin.burley@munpict.ca](mailto:kevin.burley@munpict.ca)

### Building Inspection

Mike McKenzie

[mike.mckenzie@munpict.ca](mailto:mike.mckenzie@munpict.ca)

902-485-4588

### Recreation

Cindy Fraser

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

902-485-8528

Clare Steele

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

902-485-2247

**Main office phone number:**

**902-485-4311**

**902-752-1530**

**We are located at:**

**46 Municipal Drive,**

**Pictou, NS, B0K 1H0**

**Mailing Address: P.O Box**

**910, Pictou NS B0K 1H0**

## Tax Payment Information

Property tax bills for the Municipality of Pictou County have been issued and the deadline for payment has been extended to July 22, 2020. Payments can be accepted in person at our Administration Building at 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, but please respect the physical distancing rules in place because of COVID-19. We will accept cash, debit, or cheque in person. Cheques only can be mailed to, The Municipality of Pictou County, P.O. Box 910, Pictou, NS. B0K 1H0.

To reduce the traffic in our building, we encourage everyone to pay their taxes through online banking or by cheque in the mail. Cash is not accepted in the mail. There is also a mail drop off box in front of our administration building that can be used for payments.

### COVID-19 Property Tax Financing Program Policy

The Municipality is developing a residential and commercial tax financing plan to help residents and businesses during the pandemic. The overall criteria for an eligibility request is the demonstration of hardship. Program details will be released soon. The Municipality appreciates that many of our residents and industries are significantly impacted by COVID-19.

#### To participate in the program:

Applications will be required by July 15, 2020. An online application tool is being developed and will be accessible through the Municipality's website ([www.county.pictou.ns.ca](http://www.county.pictou.ns.ca)).

Taxpayers will pay \$25 per month for the first six months and then arrange to pay the remainder of the tax bill up to 24 months.

The Municipality will offer any qualifying participant an interest rate of 1.35% which is specific to this program alone.

To remain in the program, the tax payments must be kept current. A default will result in removal from the program and taxes will then be subject to the normal interest rate of 12 percent.

**All public meetings including council and committee meetings are currently taking place electronically. Minutes from public meetings are posted on our website [www.county.pictou.ns.ca](http://www.county.pictou.ns.ca) 24 hours after the meeting takes place.**



## Calling All Local Producers... Let Us Help You

Our Local Producers Guide is up and running. Click on the link <https://pictou-county-farms-pictoucounty.hub.arcgis.com/> and find contact information for local producers. We are continuing to accept information from producers, so if you are interested in having your name added to the link, please contact [sueann.musick@munpict.ca](mailto:sueann.musick@munpict.ca)

## MOPC Recreation Programs cancelled for Summer of 2020 because of COVID-19

The Municipality of Pictou County has made the very difficult decision to cancel the Red Cross swim program and the summer recreation programs including LARK and special events due to COVID-19. Check our website and social media pages for updates. You can also contact:

**Cindy Fraser - MOPC Recreation Co-ordinator**  
**902-485-8528 or [cindy.fraser@munpict.ca](mailto:cindy.fraser@munpict.ca)**

**Clare Steele - MOPC Active Communities Co-ordinator**  
**902-485-2247 or [clare.steele@munpict.ca](mailto:clare.steele@munpict.ca)**

## Building Inspection Appointments

Our building inspection department is still operating daily, but how we do business has changed because of COVID-19. If you need a building permit or inspection, please contact our building inspector for more information or an appointment.

**[mike.mckenzie@munpict.ca](mailto:mike.mckenzie@munpict.ca)**  
**902-485-4588.**



**Municipal elections will take place on October 17, 2020. Check our website [www.county.pictou.ns.ca](http://www.county.pictou.ns.ca) for updates.**

## Councillors with the Municipality of Pictou County

District 1 Don Butler  
**902-926-2589**

**[don.butler@munpict.ca](mailto:don.butler@munpict.ca)**

District 2 Deborah Wadden  
**902-752-1303**

**[deborah.wadden@munpict.ca](mailto:deborah.wadden@munpict.ca)**

District 3 Darla MacKeil  
**902-759-2792**

**[darla.mackeil@munpict.ca](mailto:darla.mackeil@munpict.ca)**

District 4 Ronald Baillie  
**902-351-2764**

**[ronald.baillie@munpict.ca](mailto:ronald.baillie@munpict.ca)**

District 5 Wayne Murray  
**902-485-9194**

**[wayne.murray@munpict.ca](mailto:wayne.murray@munpict.ca)**

District 6 Robert Parker  
**902-925-2240**

**[robert.parker@munpict.ca](mailto:robert.parker@munpict.ca)**

District 7 David Parker  
**902-396-3481**

**[david.parker@munpict.ca](mailto:david.parker@munpict.ca)**

District 8 Larry Turner  
**902-752-6741**

**[larry.turner@munpict.ca](mailto:larry.turner@munpict.ca)**

District 9 Peter Boyles  
**902-755-3938**

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

District 10 Randy Palmer  
**902-922-2277**

**[randy.palmer@munpict.ca](mailto:randy.palmer@munpict.ca)**

District 11 Andy Thompson  
**902-695-2356**

**[andy.thompson@munpict.ca](mailto:andy.thompson@munpict.ca)**

District 12 Chester Dewar  
**902-923-2931**

**[chester.dewar@munpict.ca](mailto:chester.dewar@munpict.ca)**

**MOPC WEBSITE:**

**[www.county.pictou.ns.ca](http://www.county.pictou.ns.ca)**

**Facebook and Twitter Pages:  
Municipality of Pictou County**



# HIGH SPEED INTERNET BUILT BY US FOR US



Our rural broadband project is in the early stages of the process. COVID-19 has had an effect pushing the timeline further back than originally anticipated, but we are committed to the project. Council recently approved \$11 million to the first phase of its rural internet project that could see residents in the areas of Lyons Brook, Hardwood Hill, Abercrombie, and Granton have access to high-speed internet in 2020.

**There are a few things you can do to help us out:** Sign up here to stay updated on any news related to this project <https://register.munpict.ca/internet>. Updates on the project can also be found on our website at [county.pictou.ns.ca](https://county.pictou.ns.ca) and test your internet at <https://performance.cira.ca/pictou> will provide the basis for MOPC Broadband Network Planning.

**DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE:** We have many complaints of dogs running at large. Please be responsible dog owners and keep your dogs at home or on a leash if you take them off your property. Fines can be issued if dogs are not properly contained. You can register a complaint with our bylaw officer by calling, 902-485-8640.



## **Landfill vouchers are now available for residential assessments in rural Pictou County**

Vacant land, wood lots (forest acreage) and commercial assessments do not qualify. Each voucher will cover the cost of disposal at the Mount William Transfer Station up to 1,000 kilograms and must be used in accordance with the Municipality of Pictou County Solid Waste Resource Management Bylaw, the Pictou County Shared Services Mount William Transfer Station Policies and the Solid Waste Management Regulations of Nova Scotia. Vouchers can be mailed to you by calling our office at 902-485-4311.

Dear 2020 Graduates,  
We know your graduation celebrations are not going as planned, but we are still very proud of you. On behalf of Staff and Council for the Municipality of Pictou County, we wish all the 2020 graduates' great success in the future.

