



Rural News and Views

46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, Nova Scotia – Fall 2023



Lauren Hecimovich painted these park benches which are located at the East River Valley Recreation Facility. The park benches were made by local resident Jay Campbell. See more inside on page 3.

LEST WE FORGET

Our administration building will be closed Nov. 13 in honour of those who served and continue to sacrifice so much.

VOUCHERS:

Landfill vouchers are available until Nov. 30 from the MOPC finance department. Call for more info.

INSIDE:

Learn more about upcoming sessions on developing a municipal planning strategy on page 10.

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B0K 1H0

Main office
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902-752-1530

Mailing Address:
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A message from the Warden

Hello to all residents of our rural municipality.

What a year 2023 has turned out to be and we still have one quarter to go. Across our province we have experienced terrible wildfires, tragic floods and now another hurricane. Thankfully, Hurricane Lee was a kitten compared to last year's lion Hurricane Fiona.

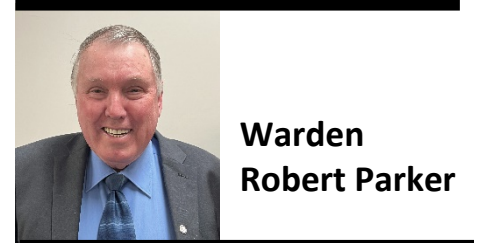
As our climate continues to change, we are almost guaranteed that climate disasters will get more frequent and more intense. Therefore, we need to be more prepared.

Our local government has an outside consultant looking at municipal infrastructure to see where the weak points are that might not hold up under even worse storms. Particularly vulnerable are our water and sewer systems as we saw in Fiona. Many couldn't handle the deluge of water or the lack of power.

We also need to be prepared to help all our residents when the next natural disaster hits. One of the big efforts we have embarked on is having many more and better equipped comfort centres across our rural communities.

The Province and Municipality have both contributed funding for new generators throughout the county.

These generators are often quite expensive as they involve upgrading outdated electrical systems at the same time. With



**Warden
Robert Parker**

the ability to keep our comfort centres warm and lighted, the other big requirement is volunteers to operate them.

We know that our communities want to assist their neighbours in time of need.

We need to encourage them to be organized and ready with teams and lots of supplies. If a Fiona type storm comes in the middle of winter, the need for well supplied comfort centres could be much greater.

Another key factor that became abundantly clear during Fiona was the importance of communication with each other and emergency services.

Our council is pushing NSPC to do better and 'strengthen the grid.' We are hoping and encouraging some of the cell phone providers will use our wireless towers to improve their service for cellphones in Pictou County.

We certainly can't control the weather but we can learn from the past to be better prepared for future events. Please make your own preparations for future weather emergencies as one thing is for sure, they are coming. Please stay safe and watch out for your neighbours and friends.



Councillor Andy Thompson met with Lauren Hecimovich recently to view the benches she painted.

Local talent on display at park

When Mike Hecimovich asked Lauren Hecimovich, who was working as a summer employee at the East River Valley Recreation Facility in Springville to paint some new benches, he wasn't looking for anything fancy - just a splash of colour to brighten them up.

Lauren asked what theme she should use and was told "playground stuff."

With a broad theme and a blank canvas, she set to work on the first one, which was yellow flowers against a blue background.

Mike was amazed when he saw the finished result.

Lauren said she has enjoyed art all her life and did some animation studies in the past. Throughout the summer on rainy days she gradually painted

all five of the benches which were purchased from a local Springville resident named Jay Campbell. Jay has a sawmill and milled hemlock wood to make the benches.

Lauren loved the look of the wood grain on the benches so for two she used a transparent background so the wood itself could be admired along with her art.

County Councillor Andy Thompson said he was impressed when he saw Lauren's work.

"What she did was just outstanding."

He said it's a great example of the community coming together with the benches made locally and local talent painting them to make for a meaningful addition to the park.

MOPC COUNCIL

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MOPC WEBSITE:
www.munpict.ca

The latest from District 10



**Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena,
Thorburn
Ice Rental Season 2023/24**

Free Skating - Saturdays 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Ice rentals are available for Pickup
Hockey, Birthday Parties, Family Skates,
etc.**

**For bookings or information please call
902-922-2680**

Other news:

Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena just had a new \$600,000 ice plant installed along with new surveillance cameras for the upcoming season.

Plans are also underway for our first annual Christmas Festival. This event will include skating, sleigh rides, vendor market, outdoor Christmas movie, Christmas Carolers and more. The event will be in early December at the arena so stay tuned for more details once plans are finalized.

East Pictou Rural Fair 2023 was a huge success

The return of the East Pictou Rural Fair, after a 21-year absence, was a huge success.

The committee lead by co-chairs Sarah Grant-Meyers and Courtney Ross provided an event filled week for all.

Hundreds attended events that included a horse pull, firefighter competition, Music Mountain outdoor concert, lob ball tournament, pancake breakfast, craft market, the Sandy Rhyno Memorial Car Show, prize bingo, children's and

main street parades, pickleball and ball hockey tournaments, youth dances, church service, queen pageant, children's carnival, dunk tank and the ever-popular rink dance.

The week was capped off with an outdoor concert and a spectacular fireworks show. Thank you to the organizing committee, volunteers and the community for their support. You'll be happy to hear that the committee is already working on plans for next year!

- Randy Palmer, District 10 Councillor

Property Taxes
are due Oct. 16

**You can pay your
property tax or water
bills online through
your bank by following
these instructions:**

To begin, you must
have a separate payee
for each; taxes and
water.

Property Taxes

Go to "Add Payee"

Search "Pictou"

Select "**Pictou County
Taxes**"

Add all 8 digits of your
Municipal Account
number

Water Utility

Go to "Add Payee"

Search "Pictou"

Select "**Pictou County
Water**"

Add all 8 digits of your
Municipal Account
number

You can pay your
property tax bills by
dropping a cheque into
the mail. The address
is: The Municipality of
Pictou County
P.O. Box 910, Pictou
Nova Scotia, B0K 1H0

Visit our administration
building Monday to
Friday from 8:30 a.m.
to 4:30 p.m. to pay your
bill in person.

Hillside fall update

The Hillside Community Hall continues to be a busy place.

The very popular Friday Night Kitchen Party has returned after the summer break. The Kitchen Party is held every Friday night from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. General admission is \$5 dollars, free admission for musicians and a light lunch is served.

The Hillside Community Society will be having a huge yard sale at the Hall toward the end of October, the time and date will be posted on the Hall's Facebook page.

Starting Oct. 2nd, Suze Guenette will be starting a yoga class at the hall at 6 p.m.

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 Sadie at (902) 921-1762. E-transfer is an option. The draw is videoed live and shown on our Facebook site.

The end of summer dance will be Oct. 14th, music by the COPY

CATZ. Tickets \$10 Advance or \$12 dollars at the door. Time -9 p.m. – 1 a.m. 19+ Gov't ID upon request. Cash Bar only! Anyone wishing to purchase tickets can do so by sending a message or contacting Morgan at 1-902-921-1118 or band members of the COPY CATZ. We hope to see you all on the 14th!

The Hillside Community Hall now has a generator installed which allowed the hall to act as a comfort station for the community during Hurricane Lee.

The Community Hall is available for rentals depending upon the size of the event. Please contact by phone or email for possible booking dates and further information.

Hillside Community Society is always looking for new volunteers to join their present team of dedicated volunteers. If you have some time to volunteer please join us, we would love to have your participation and we do have lots of fun.

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

MOPC FirstHome Internet progressing

This summer crews have been busy working to bring high speed, quality internet to residents of Pictou County.

While the projects have taken longer than initially anticipated, significant progress has been made in the last few months.

On the fibre side work has been focused in recent months on the Loch Broom Loop and up the Sunrise Trail. Service is now available to customers:

- Lyons Brook
- Durham
- Mt. Thom
- Central West River
- Green Hill
- Alma
- Salt Springs
- Loch Broom Loop

The fibre line between Pictou and Toney River is expected to be ready for connections by the end of October and between Toney River and River John by the end of the year.

If you are interested in finding out if you are ready to connect to the MOPC's Utility Fibre and select an internet service provider, go to <https://marketplace.munpict.ca/>

If you need help signing up for internet services, please call 1-833-341-2257 followed by option 3.



Wireless update

On the wireless side, this summer has been spent getting towers ready to connect more customers to the MOPC First Home wireless network.

The River John, Hardwood Hill, Green Hill, McLellans Mtn and Eureka towers are fully online now and the rest of the towers in the network are expected to be completely online by the end of the year.

The remaining towers will become available in this order:

- Bailey's Brook
- MOPC Tower- Admin Building
- Willowdale
- Eden Lake
- Mount Thom
- Sunny Brae
- East River
- Meiklefield
- Poplar Hill
- Pictou Water Tower

Speeds start at 25 Mbps download and 5 Mbps upload. Your signal will be tested before the service is connected to ensure adequate signal strength. The service is \$49.99 a month plus tax. There is also a 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps available for \$79.99.

To sign up call 1-833-727-2256 or register online at mopcfirsthome.net.

Be prepared for emergencies

Fall and winter are fast approaching and with a change in the seasons, we see a change in the weather.

With any storm, whether it is a hurricane or a snowstorm, there are some key things that residents should keep in mind.

The main message we want to share is to prepare, not panic.

Residents are encouraged to have enough food and water to last for at least 72 hours ahead of any major storm.

In addition to food and water, residents should have first aid supplies, fuel in their vehicles and batteries for flashlights and radios. You should also make sure that any prescriptions you need are filled.

We don't want people driving around immediately after a storm because there could be hazards such as downed lines, trees on the road or flooding.

The 72-hour period allows time after a storm for response crews to get comfort centres up and running and ensure roads are safe before people start driving.

As soon as roads are safe after a storm, comfort centres will be announced in areas where they are needed.

Information about comfort centres is shared with local radio stations and will also be published on your local municipality's website and social media channels.

What's most important in communities like ours, though, is for people to look after each other, just like we saw in the aftermath of Fiona.

We encourage residents to check up on their elderly neighbours in particular and to make sure their needs are being met.

Together we can weather the storms ahead.



STORM INFORMATION

HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

VISIT: OUTAGEMAP.NSPOWER.CA

CALL: 1.877.428.6004

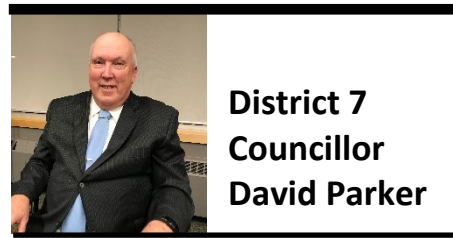
DAMAGED METER MAST?

PLEASE CONTACT A CERTIFIED ELECTRICIAN TO MAKE REPAIRS BEFORE CREWS CAN SAFELY RESTORE YOUR POWER.



Comfort centres added in District 7

The biggest news in our district is the creation of two “warming centres”. Thanks to an 80 per cent grant from the Province of Nova Scotia, larger propane fueled generators have been installed at the West River Fire Hall and at the Union Center Community Hall.



These generators, which are sized to power the entire building, along with electrical upgrades are automatic. Hopefully they will permit operation of a “comfort” Center during extended power outages or other emergencies.

soliciting volunteers in the immediate future. Please consider what role or roles you can play in strengthening our communities. It is time to step up! Please see the separate article from the WRFD.

The committees for these two groups will be

Sincerely,
Councillor David Parker, District 7

Do you have your civic number on your property?

Civic numbers play an essential role in helping first responders find you in an emergency. We cannot stress how important it is that you and everyone in your home and workplace know your civic address and post it properly.

If I do not have civic number, how do I get one?

You can call the Municipality of Pictou County’s GIS department to speak to our civic addressing coordinator. The phone number is 902-485-1201 or he can be reached at gis@munpict.ca.

How do you purchase civic number signs?

Some local fire departments will order signs for residents. See the list of fire departments and businesses that provide that can provide signs.

Can I place my sign anywhere on my property?

The Municipality of Pictou County has a bylaw on civic numbers which outlines how the signs should be posted on a property. The complete bylaw can be found on our website at www.munpict.ca.

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	joemacd@eastlink.ca
Eastern Sign	125 North Foord Street, Stellarton	Pictou County	902-752-2722	info@easternsign.ca
Eureka Fire	5222 Stellarton Trafalgar Road, Eureka	Pictou County	902-923-2660	
Little Harbour Fire	8328 Pictou Landing Road, Little Harbour	Pictou County	902-755-4420	firechief@lhfd.ca
Merigomish Fire	3259 Shore Road, Lower Barney's River	Pictou County	902-926-2247	
Plymouth Fire	4667 E River East Side Road, Plymouth	Plymouth Area	902-755-3229	mikemconway@eastlink.ca
Sketch-It Design	268 Munroe Avenue Ext. New Glasgow	Pictou County	902-754-7446	sketchitsd@outlook.com
Thorburn Fire	738 Marsh Road, Thorburn	Pictou County	902-922-3419	thorburnfiredept@gmail.com
Linacy Fire	6735 Highway 4, Linacy	Linacy Area	902-755-5595	dalepettipas@hotmail.com

Lots on the go in District 9

Hello District 9 Residents!

I hope everyone had a good summer filled with family, friends and fun. With the arrival of Fall begins a new school year, I wish everyone going back to school a wonderful year ahead.

Please keep an extra eye out for school buses and our children crossing the street on their way to and from school.

I attended the Ride For The Kids Burn Survivors. This is truly an amazing event. Steve and Dee Stewart have volunteered their service with this ride and Camp Connect for over 20 years. We appreciate all the time and effort that Dee and Steve give to make this event possible and so successful year after year. Your selfless contributions make Pictou County a better place. Also to all the hardworking volunteers and participants, you all have done an outstanding job. Thank you so much for your incredible contributions to the kids.

The Climate Change committee is once again doing a free seedling giveaway this fall. We will distribute free hardwood seedlings (red oak, red maple and sugar maple) to county residents at the Pictou County Wellness Centre on October 14. Please contact kennedyeda@gmail.com to be put on the list of recipients. If you are someone who has an interest in the environment and climate change and would like to help build a plan for a healthy and resilient future, we would love to have you participate with us.

A special thank you to our first responders and power lineworkers who worked tirelessly to keep us safe and repair the damage caused by Hurricane Lee. The weather this summer has been rough in Nova Scotia with fires, floods and Lee. This is unprecedented weather, and I worry there could still be more on the horizon. We are very fortunate to have our firefighters and volunteers that open comfort centres and check on our safety during these weather events.



**District 9
Councillor
Peter Boyles**

The Hillside Hall made a presentation of photos of the Archie Moore Club. Lawrence and Art Hafey were well known members of this club. Lawrence Hafey was nicknamed the “Nova Scotia Wildcat” and his boxing statistics are very impressive. Fighting for 20 years, his official record shows 73 professional fights, which included 48 victories and two draws. Sixteen of his professional wins were knockouts.

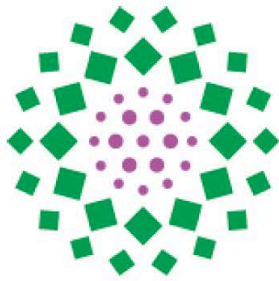
Lawrence claimed a fourth-round TKO victory over fellow Hall of Famer and future Canadian featherweight champion Rocky MacDougall in 1970, followed by a win against another future national titleholder, Gerald Bouchard, in 1972. The presentation was made during the Friday Night Kitchen Party which Lawrence and Barb regularly attend and I was lucky enough to get a picture with Lawrence Hafey. The photos will be on display at the hall for all to see.

I encourage everyone to attend the Remembrance Day services taking place at the cenotaphs in your community. Let us always honour those men and women who put their lives on the line and bravely fought for our country to protect the freedoms that we all enjoy. Lest We Forget.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me with any of your municipal questions, suggestions or concerns.

Have a safe winter.

Peter Boyles
Councillor – District 9
Email: peter.boyles@munpict.ca
902-755-3938



IMAGINE MOPC

About the Project

Imagine MOPC is a project to develop a 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 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 the municipality into compliance with this provincial mandate.

What is Planning and Why Does it Matter?

Planning is the process by which communities can control change and development in their physical environment. Planning seeks to balance the needs of people, the economy and the environment by determining where, at what intensity, and in what form certain land uses should take place. It plays an important role in keeping populations safe and healthy, and allocates growth through proactive (or deliberate) transportation and infrastructure planning, making it easier and more efficient for people to get around.



Planning **helps us prepare for change**. This can be environmental change, like sea level rise, or social change, like an aging population.



Planning **supports our community's character and culture** by promoting good urban design, a quality public realm and by keeping development consistent and complementary.



Planning **protects special and sensitive environments** by preventing or limiting development in these areas.



Planning **helps to protect people** from developing in areas where the natural environment presents a high risk.



Planning **helps to maintain a healthy, sustainable economy** by ensuring there is a good balance and proximity between places of work and places to live.

Frequently Asked Questions

➤ How will the project affect me and my property?

The new planning documents, once adopted, will apply to anything you may want to build or develop on your property in the future. Existing land uses and associated structures (that were legally constructed) are protected under the *Municipal Government Act* as a "non conforming use" or "non conforming structure" and are not required to comply with the new LUB unless they are enlarged or the use is discontinued. Everything that exists legally remains the same!

➤ Will the introduction of zoning have any impact on my property taxes?

No. Property taxes are calculated based on what's actually happening on the property, not by the zoning.

➤ Are these documents set in stone?

Planning documents are dynamic and change over time to adapt to changing demographics and trends. Your elected municipal Council has the power to make changes to planning documents at any time.

Expected Project Timeline



How Can I Participate?

Join us for an Introductory Public Meeting!

We hope to see you at one of the six community meetings in October where you can learn more about the project and share your feedback:



- Tuesday, October 10th 6:30pm at the Eureka Fire Hall (5222 Stellarton Trafalgar Rd)
- Wednesday, October 11th 6:30pm at the Little Harbour Community Centre (4892 Little Harbour Rd)
- Thursday, October 12th 6:30pm at the Thorburn Fire Department (738 Marsh Rd)
- Tuesday, October 17th 6:30pm at the West River Fire Hall (19 Gates Rd)
- Wednesday, October 18th 6:30pm at the Toney River Community Centre (4854 Hwy 6)
- Thursday, October 19th 6:30pm at the Merigomish School House Community Centre (1682 Shore Rd)



Take the Public Survey!

Share your feedback on a variety of topics like housing, the environment, what you love about life in MOPC, as well as the challenges. We want to hear from you! Scan the QR code or visit the project website to participate.

Sign up for Updates!

Stay in the loop - visit the project website and sign up for email updates:

www.imagineMOPC.ca

There will be more opportunities to share your input throughout the Initial Phase of Engagement (running until November 2023), including an online mapping activity. Stay tuned for updates! If you have questions about the project or want to submit written comments to the project team, you can email us at hello@imaginemopc.ca

This will not be the only opportunity to share your feedback!

There will be another round of engagement next Fall (2024) where you will have the opportunity to review the Draft Municipal Planning Strategy and Draft Land Use Bylaw for MOPC and provide your feedback.

For more information or to sign up for project news please visit www.imaginemopc.ca or email the project team at hello@imaginemopc.ca



Assistance can help offset home heating costs

Now that the outside temperature is starting to drop, energy cost savings are top of mind for many people. Did you know that Nova Scotia residents can apply to several rebate programs that could help reduce their energy costs this winter?

Home Warming – This program offers no-charge energy assessments and free home upgrades to eligible Nova Scotians. The plan is open to income-qualified homeowners. If the evaluation proves that draft-proofing, insulation, or other efficiency options can make a difference in heating or cooling your home, it will install the upgrades at no cost. Eligible participants must meet the total net income levels; you must own a single-unit home in Nova Scotia and provide proof of ownership, you must live in your home year-round with no plans to sell soon and your home must not have already been upgraded through Home Warming or the Low-Income Homeowner Service. More details can be found at www.homewarming.ca

The Heat Fund – Formerly known as The Good Neighbour Energy Fund is an emergency heating program available to Nova Scotian families. This program, administered by The Salvation Army, receives its funds from Nova Scotia Power Inc., NSP employees and customers, and the Nova Scotia Provincial Government. Applicants can re-apply every 24 months to the program, which runs annually from January through April. If you are in an emergency home heating situation, please download the application form or pick one up from your local Salvation Army church or thrift store, as well as MLA offices. More information can be found at <https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/home/programs/gnef/>



Efficiency Nova Scotia has several rebate programs available. A home energy assessment is highly recommended to determine if rebates apply to insulation, heating pumps, wood/pellet burning equipment, solar equipment, and other upgrades. More information can be found at <https://www.energyncs.ca/residential/>

Pictou County Fuel Fund – This local program provides short-term assistance to people who don't have other options and face the prospects of an unheated home environment. Assistance is available once per heating season for urgent fuel needs, but it is an emergency service. More information about this program can be found at www.pictoucountyfuelfund.ca/

Weather line phone number

1-833-794-3556 or 1-833-79HELLO
The Passcode for Pictou County is 01001

MOPC launches green energy financing program

PICTOU – The Municipality of Pictou County is thrilled to announce the launch of Switch MOPC. This program was created with the goal of addressing the climate crisis, all while helping homeowners live more affordably and efficiently.

The municipality has partnered with SwitchPACE, a community interest corporation, who will help administrate and finance the program. Switch MOPC builds off the success of numerous other Switch programs that exist throughout the Maritimes. In Pictou County, the program will provide easy and financially viable opportunities for homeowners to make green energy upgrades to their properties.

The Switch MOPC program currently offers financing exclusively for solar projects.

Through Switch MOPC participants are offered fixed interest rates, with financing for up to 10 years with no upfront costs for installed equipment. Homeowners can finance up to \$40,000 or 15

percent of their property's assessed value. The municipality will pay the contractor, with the homeowner paying back the loan from energy savings.

The Switch MOPC program, also features a team of Energy Concierges who will guide homeowners through the entire upgrade process including home energy assessments, project and contractor selection, and access to generous rebates and incentives available through Provincial and Federal programs.

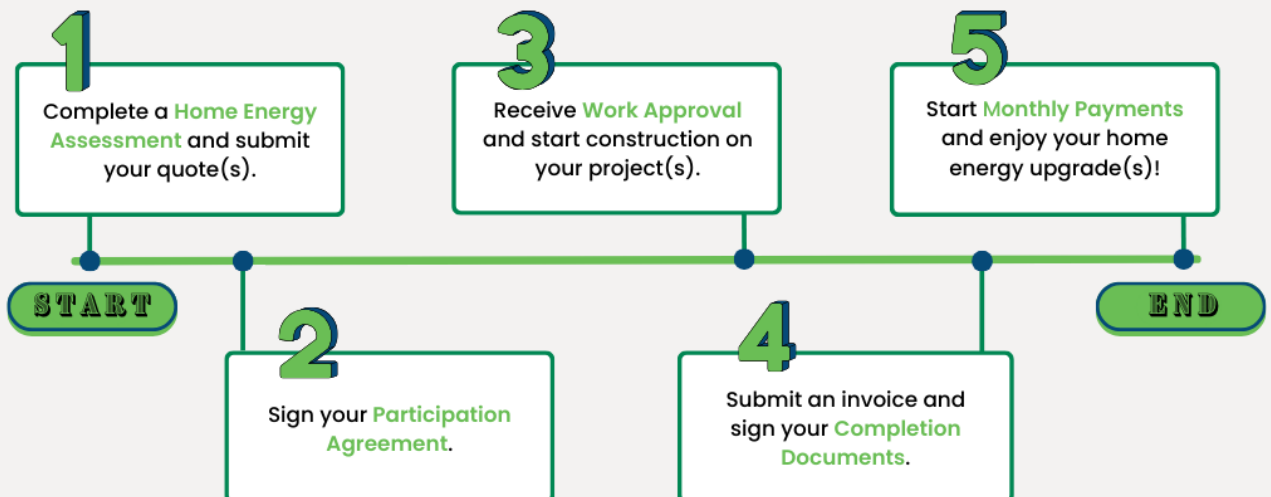
Interested homeowners can contact the Switch MOPC program directly by phone (902-334-4227), email (info@switchmopc.ca) or by visiting the program website switchmopc.ca.

Join us at these upcoming homeowner sessions

6 p.m. Oct. 24 at the MOPC Administrative Building

6 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Pictou County Wellness Centre

Homeowner's Guide



We're here to guide you every step of the way. Contact Switch today.



902-334-4227



info@switchmopc.ca

Warming Centre Committee established

Volunteers needed to ensure success

The generator has been installed and the new West River Fire Department Warming Centre is preparing to operate. The concept is to provide a gathering place during emergencies and during extended power outages.

At the Centre, as needed, people can gather to get warm, charge devices and have light refreshment (tea, coffee, soup, sandwiches).

The Chief of the Fire Department, in consultation with the Coordinating Committee, will declare when the Centre is open and when to close it. The Centre may be staffed around the clock depending on demand until the emergency is over.

To allow this to operate, we need volunteers. We require three types of volunteers:

1. Staff to attend at the fire hall. We anticipate these volunteers will be scheduled in 4-hour or 8-hour shifts. Their tasks will include greeting and assisting their neighbours, preparing tea and coffee, etc.
2. "Home bodies" – Those who have a home generator and are able to prepare soup and sandwiches.
3. Drivers – Those with a larger, heavy 4WD vehicle capable of driving through heavy

snow. These drivers will check on their neighbours to determine if they need help, transport people and prepared food to the Warming Centre.

Fortunately, three volunteer coordinators have stepped forward to help get this effort off the ground. They are:

Donna Maxwell, (902) 297-2770,
rcjfleet@gmail.com

Colleen Rauh, (902) 759-4704,
hchkrauh@tncwireless.ca

Norma Swallow, (902) 759-1070,
njr6214@gmail.com

These ladies will be compiling lists of volunteers over the next few weeks. Please consider how you can best help to strengthen our community and call one of these volunteers. It is planned to update these lists of volunteers yearly.

Although there is now way to predict when or how often the Warming Centre will be required, it is best to be prepared.

As this request is being typed, we are in the midst of hurricane season. We may need it sooner than expected.

Whom do you call?

To report a problem with a streetlight please call 902-485-1201 or email outages@munpict.ca.

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

Most roads in rural Pictou County are owned by the provincial government. If you have concern, contact the Department of Transportation at 902-755-7060 or toll-free at 1-844-696-7737.

RURAL NEWS AND VIEWS



The Municipality of Pictou County (MOPC) has granted \$28,882.40 to help with the ongoing field development work of the Salem & Area Recreation Association (S.A.R.A.). They plan to add a walking track around the field, expand and update the playground and add a washroom and storage facility on site.



The Municipality of Pictou County took some time to honour the accomplishments of River John resident Elizabeth Heighton during its Sept. 5 Council meeting. She recently attended the Canadian Charolais Youth Association's National Show and Conference in Brandon, Manitoba.



The Municipality of Pictou County is providing money to help cover some of the costs of constructing an outdoor pickleball court in River John. Council for the MOPC has approved \$37,992 in funding for the River John Pickleball Club to help complete the construction of the three-court outdoor facility. Presenting the cheque to River John Pickleball Club President Wade Taylor are Councillor Mary Elliott and Warden Robert Parker.




The MOPC's fibre project reached a milestone with its 100th customer connected on Aug. 3. Oleksii Biletskyi connected the residence on MacLean Road in the Central West River area.



PET OWNERSHIP: 5 Ways to Be Responsible

Register your dog. 

 Keep your dog on a leash in public places.

Clean up after your dog. 

 Make sure your dog gets lots of exercise.

Being respectful of others. 



Be a responsible dog owner!

It has been a busy summer for the Municipality of Pictou County's Dog Bylaw Enforcement Officer.

During the month of July, the bylaw officer was called for nine incidents involving dogs. In three of those incidents someone was bitten, and, in another incident, chickens were killed.

That troubling trend has continued into August with several serious incidents reported in various parts of the county.

In light of these incidents and attacks, residents are reminded to keep their dogs on leashes when they are in a public area and not to allow their dogs to roam. If a dog is known to be aggressive, it should be kept muzzled when it's around other people and dogs.

The MOPC encourages all dog owners to register their dogs so they can be easily identified if they are found off their property.

MOPC Tags are \$10 for spayed and neutered dogs, and it is a lifetime tag. Non-spayed and non-neutered tag are \$35.00. You can purchase your dog tag(s) at the MOPC Administration Building at 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, NS.

For more information, call 902-485-8640; or email bylawenforcement@munpict.ca.

A lot to be thankful for in District 11

We have a lot to be thankful for this time of year. 2023 was a special year in District 11. Many of the volunteer-led community projects were completed while others are starting to bear fruit. We live in a wonderful area of Pictou County which is home to many nonprofit groups such as our local fire departments, community centres and other local recreation activities such as the District 11 Summer Youth Recreation Program.

This summer we celebrated the opening of the Natural Playground at the Springville Recreation Park. Our MP, Sean Fraser had the opportunity to visit and we were able to say “Thank You” for his support and continued advocacy to make our area more inviting, accessible and Age Friendly. A special shout out to Mike Hecimovich who was the driving force behind the many improvements at the park. Mike is a community champion who saw a need and over the past 10 years he has worked toward this day. Thank you, Mike, and thank you to the volunteers of the East River Valley Recreation Association for your vision and leadership to make the improvements to the park.

We are thankful for the many volunteer groups who have stepped forward to provide comfort in the event of future natural disasters like Fiona. The Plymouth Fire Department opened in the aftermath of Fiona as a Comfort Centre and worked tirelessly serving hot meals, water and power to charge devices. Plymouth was able to open during Fiona because the volunteer department had the foresight to install a backup generator several years ago. Thank you to our volunteers for stepping up for our communities.

Following the September 2022 storm five community volunteer organizations stepped forward to make District 11 more resilient. The following groups are recipients of the provincial generator grants as they work to make their buildings Comfort Centres.

- East River St. Mary’s Fire Department



- Garden of Eden Community Centre
- Blue Mountain Fire Department
- Springville Church & Community Hall
- Sunny Brae Community Centre

All five will install backup generators so they can serve their communities during weather events and power outages.

Sunny Brae is thankful for the investment from all levels of government to update their Community Centre. The volunteers with the MacDonalld Rebekah Lodge 108 Sunny Brae Society have ambitious plans to make their hall more accessible, comfortable and sustainable. Work will start shortly on the outside of the building to make the entrance accessible to everyone. When completed the hall will have new washrooms, ramp entrance and other upgrades. The volunteers raised over \$150,000 to do the work.

During this time of year our thoughts turn towards our veterans and those who served and sacrificed for their country. We thank them for their sacrifice and honour them on November 11. I encourage everyone to attend a Remembrance Day ceremony to pay respects for those who fought for the freedoms we cherish in Canada.

Andy Thompson, Councillor, District 11

Fire Prevention Week 2023

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ for more than 100 years — has announced “Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention TM” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 8-14, 2023.

This year’s focus on cooking safety works to educate the public about simple but important steps they can take to help reduce the risk of fire when cooking at home, keeping themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires, with nearly half (49 percent) of all home fires involving cooking equipment; cooking is also the leading cause of home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires and related deaths.

In addition, NFPA data shows that cooking is the only major cause of fire that resulted in more fires and fire deaths in 2014-2018 than in 1980-1984.

“These numbers tell us that more public awareness is needed around when and where cooking hazards exist, along with ways to prevent them,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of the Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA.

Following are cooking safety messages that support this year’s theme, “Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention”:

Always keep a close eye on what you’re cooking. For foods with longer cook times, such as those that are simmering or baking, set a timer to help monitor them carefully.

Clear the cooking area of combustible items and



keep anything that can burn, such as dish towels, oven mitts, food packaging, and paper towels.

Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.

Create a “kid and pet free zone” of at least three feet (one meter) around the cooking area and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

“Staying in the kitchen, using a timer, and avoiding distractions that remove your focus from what’s on the stove are among the key messages for this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign,” said Carli.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme, “Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention,” visit www.fpw.org. Additional Fire Prevention Week resources can be found at www.sparky.org and www.sparkyschoolhouse.org.

Be a Volunteer Firefighter

The Municipality of Pictou County has 18 volunteer fire departments, serving approximately 22,000 residents in different communities throughout our municipality.

Our county has multiple districts, ranging from heavily rural, to large commercial and industrial properties.

Currently there are about 400 volunteer firefighters who proudly serve their communities. Tasks range from fire suppression, motor vehicle collisions, water rescue, medical emergencies, fire prevention and other public and agency assistance calls.

Some common misconceptions regarding joining your local fire department are that you will be required to actively fight a fire, which is not true.

We require volunteers for ALL positions, these can include but are not limited to, Driver/Operators, Safety Officers, Accountability Officers, Traffic Control, and other supportive roles. There is no age limit for who can apply, and there is a job for all skill and comfort levels. If you are interested in becoming a firefighter, email recruiting@munpict.ca or visit the Municipality's website (Munpict.ca) and click "become a volunteer firefighter".

There are a few benefits to becoming a volunteer firefighter:

- Federal tax credit of \$3,000/year
- Provincial tax refund of \$500/year
- Free registration for one set of firefighter plates for your vehicle
- A comprehensive insurance package



Earn a High School Credit for being part of a local fire station

Once again a Fire Cadet program being offered by some of our counties fire departments. This means that if you are a student in Pictou County in grades 10 through 12, you can sign up for our fire cadet program, and after completing the required curriculum, you will be given a Personal Development Credit that is offered by the Province of Nova Scotia.



To apply, simply scan the QR code below, or for more information email recruiting@munpict.ca



GO PLAY FUND

WHAT IS THE GO PLAY FUND?

The Go Play Fund was created to make recreation more affordable! If you need financial assistance to participate in a recreation program then you are eligible for the Go Play Fund!



WHY PLAY?



There are endless benefits of play! Play can increase your sense of belonging in your community, improve your physical and mental health, and increase your overall sense of wellbeing. At Pictou County Recreation we believe that everyone should get the chance to play EVERYDAY!

WANT TO HELP? DONATE!

The success of the Go Play Fund depends on you! If you are able to donate to help someone in your our community access recreation you can visit the MOPC building at 46 Municipal Drive in Pictou, or mail a cheque to the address below. Tax receipts are available!



**PICTOU COUNTY
RECREATION - GO PLAY FUND
P.O. BOX 910
PICTOU, NS
B0K 1H0**

AM I ELIGIBLE?



Whether you are 1 or 100, the Go Play Fund is for you! If you are not eligible for other funding, we want to make it easier for you to GO PLAY!



HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications are available at munpict.ca, and at the MOPC building at 46 Municipal Drive in Pictou or by scanning the QR code here:



More Questions? Email clare.steele@munpict.ca