

Rural News and Views

46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, Nova Scotia - Summer 2023



Sarah Eisan sent us this stunning photo taken from the West River Bridge on Alma Road. To submit a photo for consideration you can email it to adam.macinnis@munpict.ca

Congrats grads!

We wish all graduates of 2023 great success in the future. It is time to celebrate this major milestone, but please do so safely.

Landfill vouchers available until Nov. 30

For more info call 902-485-4311

Pick them up or have them mailed to you



MOPC FirstHome

BUILT BY US FOR US

Check out our Facebook Page: MOPC FirstHome for updates! Community meetings about our wireless service will be published on the site.

**46 Municipal Drive,
Pictou, NS,
B0K 1H0**

**Main office
Phone Numbers
902-485-4311
902-752-1530**

**Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 910,
Pictou
NS B0K 1H0**

MOPC Staff Directory

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Communications

Adam MacInnis

adam.macinnis@munpict.ca

A Message from the Warden

Hello to all residents and visitors to rural Pictou County. We are all happy to have the warm sunshine and long days back, making it a wonderful time to enjoy all our beautiful county has to offer.

May all your crops, both commercial and backyard, have a bumper season. With high grocery store prices, some of us are turning to growing some of our own food to save a little. Our farmers depend on good weather to have good yields on their crops to allow a higher percentage of local food on our tables.

Speaking of farms. The Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition is planning to construct a new barn soon to replace an old one that has seen better days. Our county government is pleased to provide some municipal taxpayer dollars toward the new facility. Congrats to all the volunteers working hard to make this project a reality and to keeping our Agricultural exhibition alive and well. We lost one of our premier volunteers and a leader in the new barn project, Elwood Fraser in a construction accident earlier this spring. He will be sorely missed, but I know others will step forward. That is the way in rural Pictou County.

Our county budget has taken some big hits this year, but we continue to assist as many local initiatives as possible. Certainly, our trails took a big hit with the terrible effect of Fiona. Thanks again to the many volunteers who have worked endless hours to put some of these trails back into safe use.

Our county government was able to free up some dollars to help with machinery costs. Not nearly what is needed but hopefully, other levels of government will contribute as well.



**Warden
Robert Parker**

I know many of you are anxious to hear of progress on the County owned high-speed internet system. On the wireless side, almost all towers are erected and being fine-tuned with several in operation. Please contact our offices to see if you are able to be serviced by any of those towers. The price is right, only \$49.99 per month and this service is purchased directly from the county.

On the fibre side, progress has been slow but several more contractors have been brought on board to speed things up. Fibre is completely installed from our county building to the top of Mt. Thom. Also, from West River Fire Hall through Alma to New Glasgow.

The priority this summer is the Loch Broom Loop and out the Sunrise Trail heading to River John, hopefully by December. Once we are to the New Glasgow terminal, we can start to look at heading east for the 2024 season, with hopefully completion by 2025.

On behalf of myself and fellow councillors and our excellent staff, I want to wish you all a very enjoyable and safe summer, whether you are part-time seasonal or full-time residents or just passing through. You will never forget Pictou County. It just grows on you.

Remember to be kind to your family, your neighbours, your friends and especially yourself.

Municipality welcomes new employees



The MOPC is pleased to welcome Ian Bos to our team. Ian will be working as the Broadband Inventory and Logistics Analyst.

MOPC COUNCIL

District 1 Don Butler
902-926-2589
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chester.dewar@munpict.ca

Shellie Pettipas will be working in the role of administrative assistant and will be assisting council and staff here at the MOPC Administration



Adam MacInnis is our new Communications Officer. If you have an upcoming event you would like posted on our social media send it to adam.macinnis@munpict.ca.



New construction high in coastal districts

People in Pictou County are clearly drawn to the coast.

In 2022 permits were issued for 242 single-family dwellings in Pictou County. Of those 45 were in District Four, 39 were in District Two and 34 in District Three. District One wasn't far behind at 27.

What all these districts have in common is they border the Northumberland Shore.

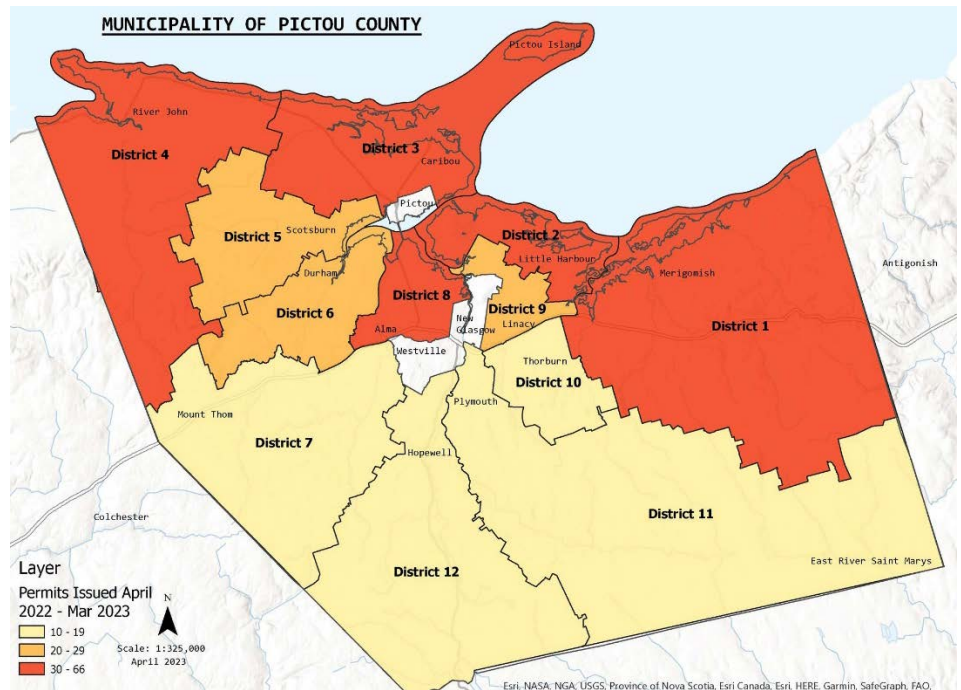
Building officials for the MOPC issued permits for \$61.5 million worth of construction in 2022. Of that, \$50 million was for houses single-family dwellings.

District Two came out in top place when it came to estimated value of new construction with \$14 million worth of construction planned in that district. District Four was next with \$9 million worth of construction.

If the stats for the first four months of 2023 are any indication, the building trend isn't slowing down at all this year. In fact, the stats for the first four months of 2023 are up a bit from what they were at this point in 2022.

"It's staying busy even though interest rates are what they are," said Mike McKenzie, a Level 2 building inspector for the MOPC. "We're still continuing to grow."

McKenzie believes part of the reason for the strong growth near the ocean may be connected to the Coastal Protection Act that the province is in the process of implementing. This provincial regulation will put in place new rules



for how far houses must be from the shore and other factors related to coastal properties.

"I think that's one of the driving factors to what's happening now along the shorelines," McKenzie said.

Many people who own lots of land have decided to build before restrictions come into effect. While the Municipality of Pictou County saw an increase in the number of people moving here from other provinces during the COVID pandemic, that migration appears to have slowed down.

"It seems like the people who are building houses were originally from here and are returning or just never left here," said Building Official Cody Avery.

Building Official Travis Spears sees a similar trend.

"It's more like the people that all

sold their houses to people from away and are now getting their own going," he said.

The officials estimate that the average house permit is for buildings that will cost between \$350,000 and \$400,000. Spears notes that the price can vary widely though, with some people building large houses and others choosing to build something small just to get it in place.

The inspectors encourage anyone who is looking to start a project to get in contact and they can help guide them through the process.

"We're definitely a useful resource that can be used throughout the process," Avery said.

For inquiries on building relating matters please contact the building officials at:

(902) 485-4588 or by email at buildingpermits@munpict.ca.

Internet projects moving forward

The Municipality of Pictou County is making progress on both the MOPC FirstHome Wireless service as well as the fibre internet project and residents are getting connected.

Our fibre lines now extend from the MOPC building to Mount Thom, providing service through Lyons Brook, Durham and Central West River. Currently, crews are working to bring that service to the Loch Broom Loop and Alma area.

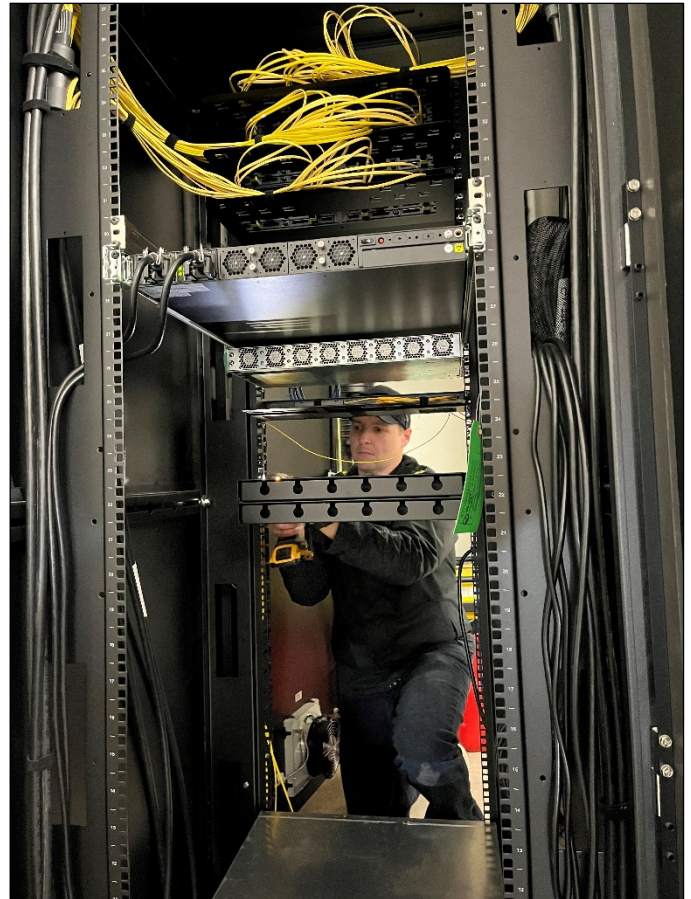
This summer crews will be working to extend the fibre up Hwy 6 to River John. From there it will branch off to provide quality (and affordable) high-speed internet to areas like Caribou Island, Waterside and Three Brooks.

On the wireless side, there are now 17 towers that the MOPC is testing service from.

Customers are being connected to all of the towers now and over the coming weeks we will be transitioning from the testing phase to opening it up for any interested residents.

Wireless internet is \$49.99 a month plus tax. Your signal will be tested before the service is connected to ensure adequate signal strength.

To sign up for our wireless internet service call us at 1-833-727-2256 or email us at sales@mopcfirshome.net. You can also register online at mopcfirshome.net.



YOUR SIGNAL WILL BE TESTED BEFORE YOU SIGN UP FOR SERVICE, SO YOU WILL KNOW WHAT YOU ARE PAYING FOR.

Contact Us:

1-833-727-2256

sales@mopcfirshome.net

MOPC partners with PACE Atlantic

The Municipality of Pictou County has started a new relationship with PACE Atlantic to make transitioning to solar power easier for county residents.

“Our Council recognizes the importance of doing our part to limit the release of greenhouse gases and the effects of climate change,” said Warden Robert Parker.

Residents all have a role to play in this effort, but often the capital dollars needed to make necessary changes in their own home are insurmountable, even though it would lead to significant savings in the long run, he said.

“For that reason, the Municipality of Pictou County is initiating the PACE program that will allow County residents to borrow the capital costs from their local government for improvements to their personal home that will lead to energy savings, including solar installations and pay back over a number of years,” Parker said. “Together, we can all do our part to reverse the negative effects of climate change and save money at the same time.”

The program is expected to be rolled out in the coming months for local residents.

About the program

PACE Atlantic is a Community Interest Corporation based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It operates with a mandate to provide a public good, which is to scale up carbon reductions.

What is PACE?

PACE stands for Property Assessed Clean Energy. PACE refers to programs that include loans that are backed by a municipal lien registered against the property to enable the lender to have the first call on any payments that are in arrears.

Why is PACE Important

The idea behind PACE is to make it easier to reduce energy bills. By including financing, the process is simpler and by taking a PACE approach the cost of financing is lower because there is much less risk the loan won't be repaid.



What is the PACE Atlantic CIC Approach?

The PACE part of the plan to remove barriers is an important one. A recent consumer study in Nova Scotia by Narrative Research found that homeowners would be most encouraged to participate in a PACE program based upon the concept of savings which would cover the repayment while financing terms and low interest rates were also key features. But the PACE Atlantic Program design goes well beyond financing.

The PACE Atlantic Program Design is a full-scale rollout of the experience and lessons learned from Halifax's Solar City Program and the Town of Berwick's very successful Green Energy Program. The critical lessons all revolve around, keeping it simple for homeowners. The money needed for energy retrofits and renewable energy systems is significant (\$10,000 to \$30,000 or more). It is a complicated purchase, and only a small percentage of homeowners take the plunge even though they know the investments can save money and help lower GHG's.

The PACE Atlantic Program is designed to be a fully integrated, turnkey solution that eliminates all barriers so homeowners can act in their best interest. To develop the solutions, especially for smaller communities, the program is receiving grants from FCM. PACE Atlantic will use part of the funds to document and report on what works and what doesn't. By proving the simple system works, the program will be able to go beyond the public funding and attract the larger base of private capital.

Watch for updates on our website, munpict.ca and social media channels this summer for how you can apply for this program.

Land use planning process begins

The Municipality of Pictou County is required by the Province of Nova Scotia to establish minimum land use planning standards. Like all other municipalities in the province, MOPC is therefore commencing development of a Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw. As we go through this process, we ask community residents and other stakeholders to offer your unique input to help shape these documents which will guide the future of our County.

MOPC has contracted the services of Nova Scotia-based UPLAND Planning + Design to help develop these standards. UPLAND has nearly a decade of experience in developing similar plans, including work with other municipalities such as the Municipalities of Antigonish County, Cumberland County, the Region of Queens, and the Town of Lunenburg, among others.

UPLAND presented their project plan to MOPC Council on April 24 and is now advancing this initiative in coordination with MOPC staff. UPLAND's project lead and senior planner, Ian Watson, took some time to discuss exactly what land use planning is. Fundamentally, he explained, planning provides a framework to guide how land is used, how and where growth and development happens, and how and where buildings are constructed. He further indicated that it is a collaborative process used to help citizens, business owners, and civic leaders to envision a common future for their community. As such, the ultimate development of these plans will be established through a thorough public consultation process that will involve stakeholders and residents in Pictou County.

Some of the reasons these guidelines are put in place are to:

- Protect sensitive environments and habitats
- Set aside land for resource development
- Use infrastructure efficiently

- Separate incompatible land uses
- Enable compatible land uses
- Manage growth and decline
- Prepare for change

Some of the things that can be (but do not have to be) regulated as part of land use planning include:

- lot configuration
- building placement
- building size
- permitted land uses
- signage
- locations of services
- development approval processes
- outdoor storage
- development restrictions in environmentally or culturally sensitive areas

During their presentation to Council, representatives from UPLAND addressed some concerns related to businesses and pre-existing structures. Because MOPC has no related land use bylaws currently in place, any new rules created through this land use planning process would not suddenly make existing businesses or structures illegal; they would be permitted to continue to function as they had prior to any plan adoption. In effect, the Municipal Government Act provides protection for legally pre-existing structures.

Residents can expect to hear more about this planning process in the coming months, including notices about public consultation meetings and where they will be held. This information will be posted on our website at www.munpict.ca and through our social media channels.

The latest news and views from District 9

Spring has sprung and summer is fast approaching, the days are getting longer and warmer.

The gardeners are looking forward to getting into the dirt and nurturing new growth in their gardens while others are enjoying the numerous trails and parks in our communities.

MOPC Free Equipment Loan Program is stocked and ready for use this summer. Also, the Climate Change Advisory Committee has been busy this spring. Last year the committee organized the planting of 2,500 trees and this year the goal is to plant 5,000 seedlings. Already this spring more than 20 volunteers came out to plant hundreds of trees in Coalburn. This fall the MOPC will be giving property owners who are interested hardwood seedlings to plant on their property, the seedlings will be maple and oak and each person who registers will be able to get two or three seedlings.

Please remember it is tick time and when spending time outdoors it's important to know how to prevent and treat tick bites.

The Linacy Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary held their Annual Ham and Salad Dinner which was a huge success selling out quickly. The firefighters weekly 50-50 jackpot is a fundraiser for participating Nova Scotia fire departments, buy a ticket and support our Linacy Fire Department. For information go to <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/nsfd> Also for hall bookings contact: Erin Pettipas at - 902-921-3863.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Gavin MacCallum of Frasers Mountain who was recently awarded the Run, Jump, Throw, Wheel Participant Award from Athletics Nova Scotia for his performance this past season. Gavin is involved with track and field and currently competes in the 600m and 60m races, shot put and long jump. He was the only recipient from Pictou County to receive a 2022 Athletics NS Award. Congratulations Gavin!

A reminder that with the summer weather here, the RCMP and the SPCA are encouraging pet owners to think twice before leaving your pets in your vehicle for any



Peter Boyles

District 9 Councillor

amount of time. It's best to leave your fur babies home and not in a car to avoid a potentially tragic outcome. If you are unsure if an animal is in distress, call the Nova Scotia SPCA at 1-888-703-7722.

I would like to take this opportunity to send congratulations to all our 2023 graduates. Congratulations on this milestone as you begin the next chapter of your lives. Shine bright!

Also, Congratulations to all other students and teachers on a successful year.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me with any of your municipal questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Have a safe and great summer.

Peter Boyles
Councillor – District 9
peter.boyles@municip.ca
Phone -902-755-3938

Whom do you call?

To report a problem with a streetlight please call (902) 485-1201 or email outages@municip.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.



This year's summer recreation team includes from left: Dan Chisholm (Bikes for Kids Coordinator), Dan Stewart, Skye MacDonald, Jesse Maxner and Grace MacLean-de Stecher. They're looking forward to a busy summer working with youth throughout Pictou County.

Pictou County Summer Program Guide 2023

Community	Contact
Lismore	Shelley Macdonald 778-883-0781 shelleylta@gmail.com
Plymouth	Janet Macdonald 902-752-1018 plymouthrecreation@gmail.com
Thorburn	Randy Palmer 902-922-2277 Randy.palmer@novascotia.ca

Contact Information: Any questions regarding these programs please contact Pictou County Recreation at 902-485-2244 or email us at summer@munpict.ca

LARK: Leisure & Active Recreation for Kids

The Lark program offers children between the ages of 5 and 12 the opportunity to be active during the summer.

COST: \$10 per child or \$25 per family, Cash Only!

WHERE:

Caribou Fire Hall – July 6th to August 17th, Monday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Scotsburn Fire Hall – July 6th to August 17th, Monday and Thursday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Salt Springs Elementary School – July 4th to August 15th Tuesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Contact Information: For more info about LARK or to register please contact Pictou County Recreation at 902-485-2244 or email us at lark@munpict.ca

Beach Swimming Lessons

COST: \$10 per child or \$25 per family, Cash Only!

WHERE:

MacDonald's Cove: July 10th – 21st

Lismore Beach: July 24th – August 4th

Caribou Beach: August 8th – 18th

Contact Information: For more info about **swimming lessons** or to register please contact Pictou County Recreation at 902-485-2244 or email us at swimming@munpict.ca

BIKE REPAIR NIGHTS

BEGINNING MAY 29 AT 6PM

When: Monday Evenings Starting May 29
Time: 6-8PM

Where: Upstairs in the CN Station
71 Front St. Pictou, NS

No Experience Required!

For More Information
Contact
902-759-9523
Bikesforkids@munpict.ca

MOPC 2023 Volunteer of the Year

David Hillier remembers the first time he looked at the old schoolhouse in Merigomish.

The pipes had frozen and broke, pigeons were roosted inside and a racoon had chewed a hole in the wall.

Without seeing them, he was sure there were probably mice, rats and other unwanted creatures throughout the building.

An inspector who came out to look at it had simple advice – gut it.

Much has changed in the last 15 years.

The building has been completely renovated and today, the Merigomish School House has become a hub of activity that includes monthly events for all ages. It regularly hosts concerts, music bingo, trivia nights and a market.

Hillier has been involved every step of the way and for his continued efforts was named the Municipality of Pictou County's 2023 Volunteer of the Year during a special celebration held at the Pictou County Wellness Centre on April 18.

Hillier, was praised at the event for his instrumental role in the development of the Merigomish School House and as a leader with the Merigomish Area Recreation and Social Association (MARSAs).

"He was there in the early days with hammer in hand, laying tiles or doing whatever was needed to help the project come to fruition," said Marilyn MacDonald, who was also part of the early restoration of the schoolhouse and one of the people who nominated Hillier for the award.

Hillier continues to help coordinate many events held at the facility and continues to take a leadership role in MARSAs.

With a background as a recording engineer, he has been able to connect with many musical performers who have delighted the community with their concerts at the schoolhouse. At the same time, he's the kind of person who is willing to do the mundane jobs – descaling the



dishwasher, dumping the dehumidifier, watering plants and shovelling steps.

"I am proud to have Dave represent our community because of his humble and giving nature," MacDonald said. "He has brought a lot of joy to the community of Merigomish and people come from far and wide to support the musical performances he arranges at the school house."

Hillier said he was honoured to be chosen as the Volunteer of the Year and thought at first there must have been some mistake.

He said for him, volunteering has been a great way to stay busy and meet people.

"You move into a little village like this and you don't know anybody and then suddenly you have all these events and now I know hundreds of people," he said.

Other nominees for this award were: Monica Beaudin, Pamela Canning, Lisa Hawkes, Cody Joudrie, Barrie MacDonald, NRHS Karma Closet, Mary Tothill, Donald Wadden and Wendy Williams.

Hillside Community Hall has plenty planned for the summer

Yard sale will be held at end of June.

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

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

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 902-755-3938. E-transfer is an option. The draw is videoed live and shown on our Facebook site.

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.

The Friday Night Kitchen Party is a great time, live entertainment and a growing crowd. It is held Fridays from 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.



General admission is \$5 dollars, free admission for musicians and a light lunch is served. The Friday Night Kitchen Party will close for the summer, the last Kitchen Party will be on June 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. See everyone again in September.

The Hillside Community Hall has had a generator recently installed which will now allow the hall to act as a comfort station for the community during a blackout.

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.

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

Council and Committee Meetings open for public viewing

MOPC Council meets the first Monday of each month and the third Monday of the month for property and finance committees.

You can attend the meetings in person at 7 p.m. in council chambers or view online through a link posted on our website, www.munpict.ca.

Meetings are also archived on our YouTube Channel, Municipality of Pictou County.

If you wish to make a presentation to council, please contact CAO Brian Cullen for details.

Firefighter Recruitment event

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Aug. 27, 2023

at the Pictou County Wellness Centre

BBQ, kids' activities and more!

Come and learn more about fire services in Pictou County.

Be fire safe

There is a provincewide ban on setting fires for any reason within 1,000 feet of woods, this includes private campgrounds, provincial parks and backyard fires.

This ban will be in effect until June 24 or until further notice. If you see smoke call 911.

The Municipality of Pictou County is reminding residents to continually monitor the Nova Scotia Burn Safe Map at <https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/>

Given the dry conditions in our woods, coupled with the deadfall because of Hurricane Fiona we are faced with a potentially volatile situation. Over 90 percent of forest fires in Nova Scotia are caused by people. A few quick reminders:

- Burning is NOT allowed between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Green – Burning allowed between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Yellow – Burning restricted, only burn between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m.
- Red – Burning BANNED, no burning allowed (this includes the use of consumer fireworks).

If you are going to burn when permitted, please ensure you are taking necessary safety precautions, ensure you have a source of water should you need it.



Municipality of Pictou County building officials Mike McKenzie and Cody Avery took some time to share with high school students what a building official's career is like during a visit to North Nova Education Centre on May 24.



NORTHUMBERLAND QUILT GUILD SHOW&SALE

Friday, Sept. 15, 2023 10am to 4pm
Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 10am to 4pm

St Andrews Presbyterian Church
105 Coleraine St
Pictou, NS

Wheelchair Accessible
Admission \$5.00 includes juice & sweet treats

Vendors
Spruce it Up
Quilts by the Bay

"Tiny Treasures" and beautiful Quilts for sale

Raffle Quilt Tickets \$2.00
To be drawn at 4pm Sept. 16

Benefits of the Bike For Kids Program



For Kids of All Ages

We do our best to
accommodate any
application that we
receive



Accessible, Inclusive & Equitable

Bikes for Kids provides bicycles for
individuals of all backgrounds and
riding abilities!



Environmentally Sustainable

Ride, Re-use, and Recycle!
Bikes for Kids reduces waste
and extends the life of bikes
and is environmentally
sustainable



Financially Sustainable

Donating old bikes
and applying for "new
to you" bicycles is a
cost effective way of
growing into a new
bike!

Apply Here!



We are happy to have Dan Chisholm overseeing our Bikes for Kids program this summer. Bikes for Kids provides 'new to you' bikes to children/youth of Pictou County in need of one free of charge. Applications are available on our website: <https://munpict.ca/assets/Bikes-for-Kids-2023-Application-Form.pdf>. For more information call 902 759-9523 or email bikesforkids@munpict.ca.

DISTRICT 13 RECREATION & PLANNING COMMISSION THORBURN & SURROUNDING AREAS **2023 SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM**

NO COST FOR THE PROGRAM

The Recreation Program will
begin on Monday, July 3rd until
Friday, August 18th at the
Thorburn Mohawk Ball Field,
from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Age 5 to 12 years old

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

If you require further info contact
Randy Palmer at (902) 922-2277.



We are making it easier for you to contact us!

The Municipality of the County of Pictou's GeoHub will connect you MOPC services.

Please see the link below to try it out!

Click on the link our MOPC website at www.munpict.ca

Using the GeoHub, you can:

- View water and sewer systems in your neighbourhood.
- Find locations of municipally owned streets and sidewalks.
- Submit building permit applications.
- Report street light outages.
- Access Recreation's Loan Equipment Program.
- Submit bylaw complaints related to dangerous and unsightly properties, dogs, and other animals.
- Follow the development of municipal plans and policies.
- Submit comments and questions directly to municipal staff.
- And much more!



The Municipality of Pictou County is happy to announce that Leighton Hayden has recently taken on the role of Municipal Physical Activity Leader. This position is a partnership between the Municipality of Pictou County and Town of Pictou with support from Nova Scotia's Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage. In this job, Leighton will be focused primarily on active transportation and trails.

NOVA SCOTIA 55+ GAMES
PICTOU COUNTY
2023

SEPTEMBER 20 - 23, 2023
PICTOU COUNTY, NS

ns55plusgames.ca

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Construction begins on Culture Hub

This spring the Pictou Culture Hub Project partners awarded the construction contract for the hub facility to Iron Maple Constructors of Dartmouth.

This is a significant milestone for the project, following nearly eight years of planning, community consultation and fundraising.

At its core, the Pictou Culture Hub features a modern public library and an updated and refreshed theatre facility, but there is so much more. The new facility will be highly accessible, featuring expanded meeting and event space, improved ability to host visual art exhibits, a creative area for children and families, a makerspace showcasing new technologies, and many growth-related improvements like enhanced and expanded washrooms and parking. In addition, there will be dedicated studio space for arts and culture activities such as exhibits and workshops.

The existing theatre will see many enhancements including a new kitchen, office space and an expanded backstage, allowing the theatre to host a broader mix of events.

“The Pictou Culture Hub is going to transform the waterfront and make a tremendous difference for the town, and the entire region,” says Karla MacFarlane, MLA for Pictou West. “On behalf of the Province, we’re proud to support this important project and pleased to see the next step move forward. Congratulations to all the partners for their dedication and hard work.”

Work is now underway on the project.

“We have been so pleased to have the steadfast support of our federal, provincial and local representatives. They have helped us to navigate many roadblocks, keeping the project moving forward, without having to downsize our plans. This is a wonderful example of what can happen when municipalities and community organizations work together,” says Warden Robert Parker.

The Pictou Culture Hub Project Committee includes representation from the Town of Pictou, the MOPC, the deCoste Centre for Arts and Creativity, and the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library.



Pictured presenting a plaque recognizing Gavin MacCallum's accomplishments are Warden Robert Parker, left, and Councillor Peter Boyles, right.

Local track and field athlete recognized

Council for the Municipality of Pictou County took some time to congratulate Gavin MacCallum of Frasers Mountain for his recent accomplishments during its May Council meeting on May 1.

Gavin, who is a Grade 7 student at Frank H. MacDonald Academy, was recently awarded the Run, Jump, Throw, Wheel Participant Award from Athletics Nova Scotia for his performance this past season.

The 2022 Athletics NS Awards are given to athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers who made outstanding achievements in the sport of athletics in 2022.

Gavin was involved with track and field since he was 6 or 7 years old and currently competes in the 600m and 60m races, shot put and long jump.

He was the only recipient from Pictou County to receive a 2022 Athletics NS Award.



The Municipality of Pictou County has joined forces with other municipal units to create a county-wide equipment loan program. Equipment can be loaned out to anyone, free of charge, by filling out an online application form. Cross-sharing is permitted, meaning you can receive equipment from any municipality on the site. There is equipment available for all seasons. Once your application is approved, you will be given instructions for the pickup and drop off the equipment. All we ask is that you take good care of it.

Examples of equipment available for the summer months include:

- Paddle boards
- Kayaks
- E-bikes
- Roller blades

Pick up and drop off of equipment is easy at the MOPC. Come to the back of our building and find the orange Go Play door. Ring the buzzer and someone will come out to assist you.

You can access the link by clicking on the loan equipment tab on our website at www.munpict.ca

An update from District 7

District 7 includes the upper West and Middle River valleys south of Hwy. 104 and the MNE Pipeline in the Salt Springs area. It extends to the County line in the Mt. Thom and Lansdowne districts. It is entirely rural in nature.

First the County internet projects are proceeding, however, more slowly than we would prefer. Most of the wireless towers are now up and expected to be operational by the end of June.

You can sign up now through the MOPC website. The more extensive fibre network is proceeding with work currently on the line from Central West River to New Glasgow.

On June 15, 2023 an information meeting hosted by the MOPC on the internet projects will be held at the Union Center Community Hall at 7 p.m.

Secondly, the Union Center Community Hall is planning significant upgrades to become a designated community warming Center. Applications have been made to several government agencies for funding to

lift the building and place it on a concrete foundation, replace the roof and to improve accessibility including an accessible washroom. Last week, (May 15-19) a propane generator was installed and some electrical upgrades completed.

To aid this effort a community fundraiser is being planned for August 5th at the Fraser event barn in Pleasant Valley. Details are still being planned but it is hoped to be a family friendly meet and greet event for both long-time residents and the many newcomers who have chosen to make our fair valley their home. Please save the date and dust off your dancing shoes!

The West River Fire Hall has made application to the Generator Program and is hoping to become a designated warming Center for the West River Valley in the near future. We hope to be better prepared for the next emergency than we were for Hurricane Fiona.

- David Parker
District 7 Councillor



Get your tickets by scanning the code below with the camera on your mobile phone!



rafflebox.ca/raffle/district13-ropc Tickets— 1/\$3, 4/\$10, 10/\$20, 30/\$50

EAST PICTOU RURAL FAIR AUGUST 17-20

THUR AUGUST 17 Pickleball Tournament - Schedule TBD Rink
Ball Hockey Tournament - Schedule TBD School
Fireman Competition - 6 pm-8 pm Upper School Field
Youth Dance (Grades 6-8) - 6 pm-8 pm Rink Annex

FRI AUGUST 18 Ball Tournament - Schedule TBD Thorburn Ballfield
Ball Hockey Tournament - Schedule TBD School
Evening Concert - 6 pm-10 pm Music Mountain
Youth dance (Grades 9-12) - 8 pm-10 pm Rink Annex

SAT AUGUST 19 Ball Tournament - Schedule TBD Thorburn Ballfield
Pancake Breakfast - 7 am-11 am IOOF Hall
Sandy Rhyno Memorial Car Show - 10 am-4 pm Rink/School Field
Children's Parade - 10 am-11 am Rink
Children's Carnival - 11 am-2 pm Rink
Corn Boil - 12 pm - Sold Out Rink
Horse Pulls - 12 pm Behind Rink
Prize Bingo - 1 pm-4 pm Fire Hall
Dance - 9 pm-1 am Rink

SUN AUGUST 20 Ball Tournament - Schedule TBD Thorburn Ballfield
Church Service - 11 am Union Presbyterian Church
Parade - 1 pm IOOF Hall, along High Row to Rink
Craft, Vendor and Flea Market - 1:30 pm Rink
Pageant and Crowning - 7 pm Rink
Evening Concert - 8 pm Rink/School Field
Fireworks - 9:30 pm Rink/School Field

Sprucing up the environment

Volunteers helped make Pictou County a little greener on Saturday, May 13.

More than 20 volunteers came out to plant hundreds of trees on currently unused land in Coalburn.

The Municipality of Pictou County's Climate Change Advisory Committee organized the initiative.

"The objective of the Climate Change Advisory Committee is to help the council develop projects that will help reduce the impacts of climate change," Ed Kennedy, chair of the Pictou County Tree Planting Subcommittee, explained.

Last year the committee helped organize the planting of 2,500 trees; this year the goal is to plant 5,000 spruce seedlings. The May 13 mass planting was the first step towards that goal.

"The idea is to let them grow to full maturity which gives them the maximum carbon capture," Kennedy said.

This will reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the air and help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

"We can actually do something about climate change," Warden Robert Parker said. "We're not just talking about it. We're doing something. These trees someday will be 40 and 50 feet high and will be sucking up carbon and keeping our atmosphere clear."



He said he was thankful for all the volunteers who joined in to help plant the trees.

"It means a lot that people will come out."

Parker noted that Pictou County lost a lot of trees during Hurricane Fiona last fall and this planting helps to replace them.

The remaining 2,500 seedlings will also be going into the ground soon.

Kennedy said there are seven schools in the county that have expressed interest in planting the seedlings on their properties with their students.

This fall the MOPC will also be giving property owners who are interested some hardwood seedlings to plant on their property. Kennedy said those will be maple and oak and each person who registers should be able to get two or three.

Anyone interested in registering for those hardwood seedlings can email Ed Kennedy at kennedyeda@gmail.com.

Have you heard about our MOPC Producers website?

Just one click of your computer mouse takes you to the listings of local producers.

You will find the link on our website at www.munpict.ca



Once you have found the page, you will be provided with information and links to local producers' websites that will tell you more about the products they offer and how to reach them.

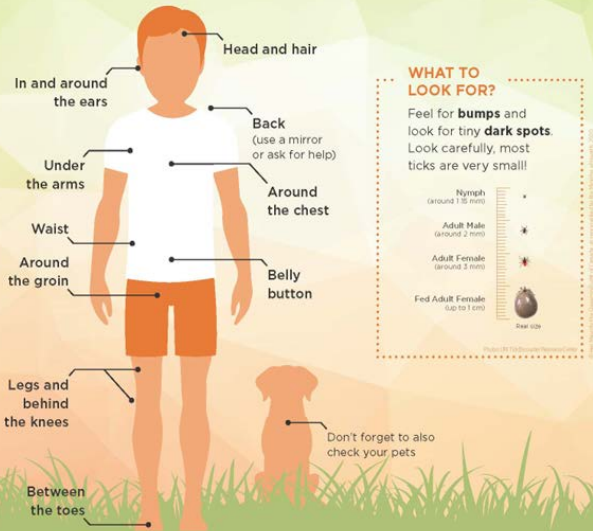
If you are a local producer wanting to be on the website, contact us today. It is free of charge and only takes a few minutes to get you involved.

sueann.musick@munpict.ca
902-485-2238



TOP 10 TICK HIDING SPOTS ON YOUR BODY

Tick checks are one of the ways you can prevent Lyme disease and other infections spread by ticks. **Check your entire body**, especially:



WHAT TO LOOK FOR?

Feel for **bumps** and look for tiny **dark spots**. Look carefully, most ticks are very small!



Found a tick? Remove it immediately to reduce the risk of infection.

Canada.ca/LymeDisease

Public Health Agency of Canada / Agence de la santé publique du Canada



Are You Ready to be Connected?

There are three high-speed internet providers on the MOPC's fibre utility, and all are excellent choices to provide you with service. Prices and packages depend on the ISP you choose and the amount of data you require. Pricing currently is between \$30 and \$100 a month. **Go the website <https://marketplace.munpict.ca>** and enter your address to see if you are eligible for fibre service.



1-902-800-2660
www.purplecowinternet.com



1-866-790-6950
tncwireless.ca



1-877-473-3660
novascotiahighspeedinternet.net

If you are not able to connect yet, keep checking the marketplace website for updates.

If you need assistance signing up, contact one of these internet providers or call 1-833-341-2257 followed by option 3.

www.ruralnet.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:



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

JUNE IS RECREATION MONTH

For the month of June, the MOPC Council will match donations made to the Go Play Fund up to \$2000. Tax receipts are available!



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

More Questions? Email clare.steele@munpict.ca