

Rural News and Views

46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, Nova Scotia - Winter 2023



Thank you to Angie Larkin-Turner who captures the beauty of winter on top of Green Hill. We welcome your photos to share on our social media sites. Send them along to sueann.musick@munpict.ca.

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

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

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

INSIDE:

MOPC
FirstHome
BUILT BY US FOR US

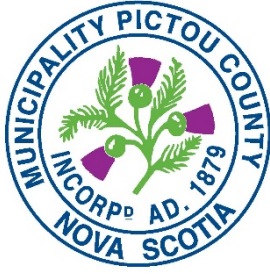
Learn about the MOPC's new wireless internet service as well as updates on its fibre project.



Our Equipment Loan Program is stocked with winter equipment.

Don't miss the latest in MOPC news and events. Check out www.munpict.ca as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages at





MOPC Staff Directory

Chief Administrative Officer

Brian Cullen
brian.cullen@munpict.ca

Finance Office

Deputy Municipal Treasurer
Karen Cornish
karen.cornish@munpict.ca

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Emergency Phone Number:
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Development Officer

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Emergency Services

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Jason La Greca
Jason.Lagreca@munpict.ca

By-law Officer

Anne MacCarthy
bylawenforcement@munpict.ca

GIS Technician

Kevin Burley
gis@munpict.ca

Building Inspection

Mike McKenzie
Travis Spears
buildingpermits@munpict.ca

Recreation

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

A Message from the Warden

Hello to all residents and businesses in our rural Municipality of Pictou County. Believe it or not, we are four months past Hurricane Fiona. It wreaked terrible damage on our county and caused considerable damage, cost, and mental stress for our citizens.



**Warden
Robert Parker**

Our staff worked long hours during the aftermath of Fiona with the Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) to help people and communities deal with all kinds of situations. Thank you to everyone who assisted us during this difficult time.

Following the hurricane, council saw the biggest need for was to assist rural residents in cleaning up huge piles of brush on their properties.

Using a mix of chippers and trucks with clam loaders, all areas of rural Pictou County were serviced within two months. Our total cost was about \$600,000 and we are hopeful that federal programs announced post-Fiona by the federal government will offset this cost.

Council has decided to put out a request for a proposal for the demolition of the former East Pictou School. We hoped to use the complex to help alleviate some of the need for housing in our rural county, but it wasn't feasible. We are hopeful the demolition can move forward quickly.

The federal government recently showed confidence in our rural internet project by investing \$31 million into it. This will allow us to reach more homes with fibre. We had received more than \$4 million earlier from the same level of government that will be used to enhance our wireless service, called MOPC FirstHome. Our wireless service costs \$49.99 monthly plus HST with no contract or data cap. Towers in Green Hill, Hardwood Hill and at the MOPC office are in service now; others will be available soon. Fibre will take about two more years to reach everyone as we wait for other organizations to do their work.

Remember all the blessings we have and please be there for all residents of our rural communities who are facing challenges, be it health, housing, loss of loved ones, or just trying to afford groceries.

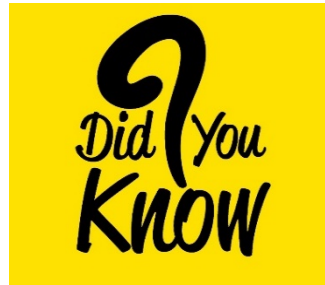
MOPC Welcomes Two New Employees



District 4 Coun. Mary Elliott and the MOPC congratulate Aubrey Heighton on his 90th birthday. Mr. Heighton celebrated this milestone on Dec. 28, 2022, and was presented with a Special Recognition Plaque by the MOPC to mark the occasion.

MOPC COUNCIL

- District 1 Don Butler
902-926-2589
don.butler@munpict.ca
- District 2 Deborah Wadden
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- District 3 Darla MacKeil
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darla.mackeil@munpict.ca
- District 4 Mary Elliott
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- District 5 Wayne Murray
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- District 6 Robert Parker
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- District 7 David Parker
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- District 9 Peter Boyles
902-755-3938
peter.boyles@munpict.ca
- District 10 Randy Palmer
902-922-2277
randy.palmer@munpict.ca
- District 11 Andy Thompson
902-754-0101
andy.thompson@munpict.ca
- District 12 Chester Dewar
902-923-2931
chester.dewar@munpict.ca
- MOPC WEBSITE:**
www.munpict.ca
Facebook, You Tube,
Instagram and Twitter Pages:
Municipality of Pictou County



**Animal Cruelty
Reminder:**

Animal welfare is of premiere importance to MOPC. If you suspect animal neglect or abuse, please get in touch with the SPCA or Department of Agriculture as appropriate using the following contact information:

**Domesticated Animals:
SPCA Cruelty line**
1-888-703-7722

Should you not receive confirmation from the above Cruelty line, call 902-396-3595

Livestock:

**Department of
Agriculture**

902-956-1165

ICE@novascotia.ca

Please note that MOPC Bylaw Enforcement personnel should only be contacted in the case of dogs/animals at large or for other bylaw violation complaints. communities.

District 9 News

Shubenacadie Sam predicted another six weeks of winter and the cold weather found us big time! Spring is only six weeks away. Thank you to the firefighters, healthcare workers and linesmen who go out daily regardless of the weather to help us stay healthy and safe.

February is African Heritage Month and this year's African Heritage theme is 'Seas of Struggle: African Peoples from Shore to Shore'. Celebrate the rich culture and valuable contributions of past and present persons of African heritage by participating in some of this year's activities.

April 16th to 22nd is Volunteer Week in the Municipality.

District 9 has many wonderful volunteers. Please nominate a volunteer you know by submitting a brief letter detailing their contributions to our community. Nomination forms can be downloaded at www.munpict.ca and submitted by February 28, 2023.

Municipal grant applications for the 2023/24 fiscal period are now available from the municipal office, and applications must be returned no later than Feb. 28. If you have any questions regarding the municipal grant, please contact me.

The MOPC FirstHome a wireless network is owned and operated by the Municipality of Pictou County. A public meeting will be held on March 2 at 7 p.m. at the Hillside Community Hall so people can learn more about the service. The presentation will tell you about the service, coverage areas and the cost.

The Linacy Fire Department and the Hillside Community Hall will soon be receiving new generators. The Linacy Fire Department is always quick to open as a comfort center and assist the residents in staying safe and warm during emergencies. I was invited to tour a new business in Pictou County called Eastcut Wood Building Solutions, based in Trenton. They are a manufacturer of a unique fabrication technology to efficiently construct a pre-built wall and floor systems used in residential and commercial buildings. It is a very impressive business and a welcomed addition to our county. They have hired over twenty people and hope to employ more as they continue to grow. Visit their website at <https://www.eastcut.ca>



Have a safe and wonderful winter.

Peter Boyles

Councillor – District 9

902-755-3938

peter.boyles@munpict.ca

Paying your MOPC Taxes

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.



Congratulations to MOPC District 12 Coun. Chester Dewar, left, and District 11 Coun. Andy Thompson, who are recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal. To be eligible for the medal, a person must be a resident of Nova Scotia or have a strong direct connection with the province and have made a significant contribution to Canada, Nova Scotia, or to a particular region or community.



The MOPC's Rural Broadband Project recently received a \$30.7 million grant from the federal government's Universal Broadband Fund. Thank you to Central Nova MP Sean Fraser for bringing the good news to the MOPC.

Lock It or Lose It!

RCMP continue to see two common factors with all vehicle thefts in Pictou County:

1. Vehicle doors are left unlocked.
2. Keys are being left in vehicles.

Property crime is preventable. A lock should always secure vehicles and homes. Other things you can do to protect your property from crime are:

1. Keep valuables out of sight and take them out of your vehicle at night.
2. Keep garage, shed and house doors locked.
3. Take photos of items and serial numbers on expensive items. If items get stolen, you can report accurate details to the police.
4. Don't post that you will be away from home on social media.
5. If you are going to be away, arrange for someone to collect mail, newspapers, check on your property daily.
6. Keep your property well-lit.
7. Check on seasonal properties.
8. Report suspicious activity in your neighbourhood to police.

MOPC First Home Wireless Services

The Municipality of Pictou County is ready to provide affordable wireless internet service through its FirstHome Wireless Service. Towers are going up across rural Pictou County, allowing residents and businesses to access high-speed internet at a reasonable cost.

When you contact us about your MOPC FirstHome Service, we will provide you with details about availability, pricing, equipment installations and signal strength.

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@mopcfirsthome.net



Work on the River John Tower progresses in 2023.



The MOPC is pleased to have Scott Hewey oversee its Rural Broadband Project.

The MOPC welcomes Scott Hewey to its team. Scott is a 15-year resident of Pictou County and is excited to be a part of the MOPC as the new Broadband Systems Analyst for its Department of Innovation and Transformation. As we all know, fast, dependable high-speed internet is becoming increasingly essential as we work, learn, and stay connected online. In Scott's role with the MOPC, he will monitor and coordinate the various systems and tasks related to this new project to ensure that we all benefit for many years.



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



Rural Broadband Fibre Services

Are You Connected?



Internet Fibre Service is now available in rural Pictou County. If you have received a letter in the mail from the MOPC there are two steps to be taken to get connected to high-speed internet.

Step One: MOPC Free Utility Fibre Hook Up

This takes the fibre from the pole to your home. A small utility box is attached to the outside of your home and a fibre cable is connected to an optical terminal all at not cost to you.

- A. Go the website <https://marketplace.munpict.ca/>
- B. Click tab: Choose your Internet Service Provider
- C. Choose Residential or Business
- D. Choose MOPC Fibre Installation Only. This will ask you to confirm your address and if you are eligible because fibre is available to you now, you will need to register as a new client. Once this is complete, keep your username and password so you re-enter the site to choose an internet service provider.

Step Two: Choosing your Internet Service Provider

There are three high-speed internet providers on 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 to \$100 a month. Go to the website <https://marketplace.munpict.ca/> to sign up for internet service.



902-800-2660
<https://www.purplecowinternet.com>



1-866-790-6950
tncwireless.ca



1-877-473-3660
novascotiahighspeedinternet.com

If you need assistance signing up for the free fibre installation or an internet service provider, call 1-833-341-2257 followed by option 3.

www.ruralnet.munpict.ca

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
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

Smoke detectors in your home can save your life

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- **Test all smoke alarms at least once a month.** Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries **every year**. Use your birthday as a date to remember.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.

Pictou County Firefighters

Be a Part of a Team that NEVER GIVES UP.



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 different districts, ranging from heavily rural, to large commercial and industrial properties. Currently, we have approximately 400 volunteer firefighters, proudly serving their communities. Tasks range from fire suppression, motor vehicle collisions, water rescue, medical emergencies, fire prevention and other public and agency assistance calls.



To learn more, contact:
Municipality of Pictou County
Emergency Services Director
Evan Hale
902-485-2242
evan.hale@munpict.ca

Aim for Excellence
by filling out an
application form at
www.munpict.ca or
use the QR Code.



Be Part of a Team that **ALWAYS HAS YOUR BACK.**



What is it like being a volunteer firefighter?

In the role of a volunteer firefighter, you will start by learning. The first steps as a firefighter in our community will be familiarizing yourself with our equipment, policies, and practices. Secondly, you will have training provided to you where you will learn the basic skills required to respond to emergencies.

While firefighting may seem like our only job, there are many other roles on an emergency scene, and at the fire station. We are always recruiting firefighters; we are also recruiting those who want to be a supportive role. Responsibilities for this can range from traffic control to scene accountability, as well as many other tasks.

What qualifications do you need to become a volunteer firefighter?

A valid driver's license (minimum class 5)

- A clean criminal record check
- A driver's abstract demonstrating a safe driving record
- Ability to communicate in English
- Canadian citizenship or landed immigrant status

Q: Do I need the experience to join?

No experience is necessary to join your local fire department, all training will be provided.

Q: How much time do I have to devote as a volunteer?

This will depend on each individual department, however, the Province of Nova Scotia states that a volunteer firefighter in good standing will attend 20 percent of each of the department's annual calls, training, and meetings.

Q: Do I have to fight fires?

NO, our stations need members with all types of skills and abilities. While fighting fires seems like our only task; there are many other positions on fire scenes ranging from traffic control, firefighter accountability, and other supportive roles that are just as important.

Q: What if I get hurt while on a scene or at training?

All MOPC volunteer firefighters are covered under a comprehensive insurance package, as well as WCB should they be injured in the performance of their duties, whether on scene, at training, or at the station.

Q: Will I get paid?

There is no compensation associated with our counties' volunteer service, however; if you are a member in good standing, after one year of service you will be provided with one set of Volunteer firefighter plates, removing the expense for registration fees, as well as be eligible for a provincial tax credit annually.

Earn High School Credits with the Fire Cadet Program

Be Part of a Team that **THAT TRAINS FOR LIFE.**

I am a Firefighter.

Logan MacDonald – Junior Fire Cadet



What inspired you to become a firefighter?

Logan was encouraged to become a firefighter by his neighbour and Scotsburn Fire chief Tim VanVeen. Logan attended a fundraising event in the summer and has stuck around since.

What kind of training have you taken?

Through Logan's time in the department, he has taken lots of in-house training through the Junior Cadet Program, completed his orientation 1 with Pictou County Fire School and participated in a vehicle extrication drill hosted at Northumberland Regional High School.

Can you describe a memorable experience you've had as a firefighter?

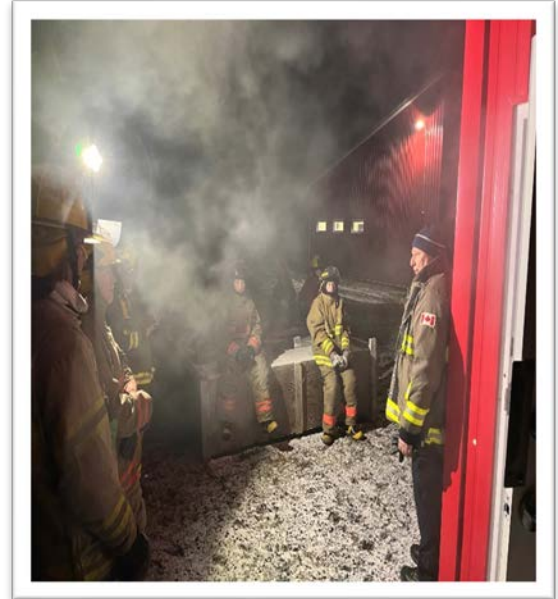
So far, one of Logan's most memorable moments was his first structure fire. Logan could wear an SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) at the call to make an exterior attack and assist with ventilation. Thanks to his training with his department and the county fire school, he felt well-prepared for this call.

How long have you been a volunteer? What capacity?

Logan joined Scotsburn Fire in August 2022 and is a junior cadet firefighter with the provincial accreditation program.

Any advice for future firefighters?

"Give it a shot; always try things. You don't have to be an interior attack firefighter, there are lots of other jobs!"



How do you become part of the Fire Cadet Program?

Are you a high school student who wants to earn a personal development credit?

Do you want to help your community and be part of a team?

The Municipality of Pictou County fire service needs you! We are looking for high school students who want to make a difference in their communities and be part of a team.

The Fire Cadet Program has been established in our county, this program has been designed to give students Basic Firefighter Training, and upon completion of this required training; students will be given a personal development credit from their high school.

To apply or for more information, email recruiting@munpict.ca.

I am a firefighter...



Debra Caldwell – Chief of Pictou Landing Fire Department

What inspired you to become a firefighter?

My number one inspiration to become a firefighter was my father, Bill Caldwell. He was a firefighter and former fire chief for the Pictou Landing FD. As far back as I can remember, I have always been around the fire service. The other person who played a big role in my wanting to become a firefighter is my cousin Lee Caldwell, a long-time member of the Stellarton fire department. I always looked up to him and admired him for being a firefighter. This gave me the push to do it myself. I also always had the drive to want to help in my community.



Mira Dewar – Scotsburn Fire Department, Junior Cadet Program

Can you describe a memorable experience you've had as a firefighter?

Mira said one of her most memorable experiences was a mock vehicle extrication hosted at Northumberland Regional High School. Mira was able to show her fellow classmates her skills and encourage them to try. Mira said removing the roof took many steps to ensure everyone's safety.

How long have you been a volunteer? What capacity?

Mira joined the junior cadet firefighter program in September 2022.

Any advice for future firefighters?

"It may look scary but come in and give it your best."



Zach MacDonald- Scotsburn Fire Department, Junior Cadet Program

What inspired you to become a firefighter?

Zach became a firefighter when he moved back home from out west. He has been interested in being a firefighter since he was a kid.

Zach has taken any training offered throughout his time in the department. He is a level one trained firefighter, advanced medical first responder and level one vehicle extrication. He enjoys the learning opportunities that come with being a firefighter.

Any advice for future firefighters?

"If you're interested, go for it. You gain a family, and the opportunities also benefit your personal life. For example, taking your medical training can also be used in your everyday life."



Dean Edamura – Scotsburn Fire Department

What inspired you to become a firefighter?

Dean moved from Toronto to Scotsburn in 2019. While he lived in the city, he had dreams of being a firefighter, but the only opportunities were career firefighter. When he moved to Scotsburn, he found out the fire service was volunteer. Dean was excited to give it a shot and showed up one night for training. He was given a pager that night and has been coming back ever since.

Any advice for future firefighters?

"Keep training! Keep your mind open to learn from new opportunities and experiences."

Hillside Community Hall hosts events for all occasions

Over the past few months, the Hillside Community Hall has been busy hosting a Christmas craft fair, yard sale, several hall rentals, its monthly 50/50 draw and the very popular Friday Night Kitchen Party. The hall will host a public information session on March 2 at 7 p.m. regarding the county's wireless network. The presentation will talk about the service, coverage areas and cost.

Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search And Rescue

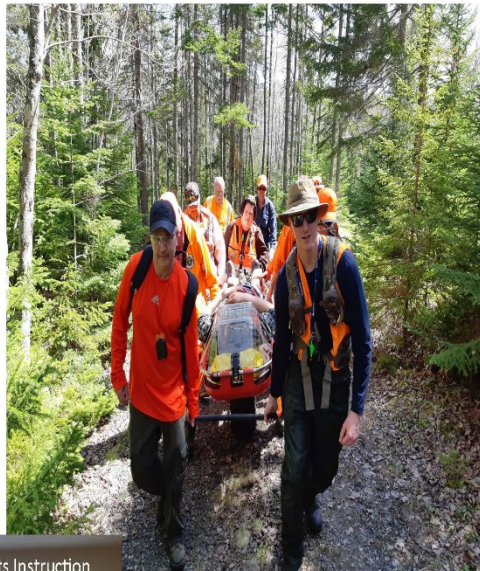
Recruitment Drive for New Members

JOIN US!

EMAIL: pcvgsar@gmail.com

OUR TEAM
NEEDS ACTIVE
MEMBERS
WITH VARIOUS
SKILLS.

SEE WHAT YOU
CAN DO FOR
YOUR COUNTY
AND PROVINCE.



COME TRAIN WITH

OUR TEAM &

VOLUNTEER AS:

- ◆ SEARCHER
- ◆ TEAM LEADER
- ◆ OPERATIONS CHIEF
- ◆ LOGISTICS CHIEF
- ◆ SAFETY OFFICER
- ◆ RADIO OPERATOR
- ◆ SEARCH MANAGER

OR MANY OTHER
POSITIONS

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. Etransfer is an option. The draw is videoed live and shown on our Facebook site.

Hillside Community Society is currently seeking new volunteers to join their present team of dedicated volunteers.

The Friday Night Kitchen Party is a great time from 6:30 pm – 9 pm every Friday night. General admission is \$5 dollars, free admission for musicians and a light lunch is served.

The community hall is available for rentals depending upon the size of the event. Please contact me Sadie Boyles at 902-755-3938 for possible booking dates and further information. Visit us on Facebook " Hillside Community Hall "for upcoming events and notices.



Ropes & Knots Instruction



Map & Compass Course



PCVGSAR at Debert Airshow Radio Operation

2023 Property Assessment Values

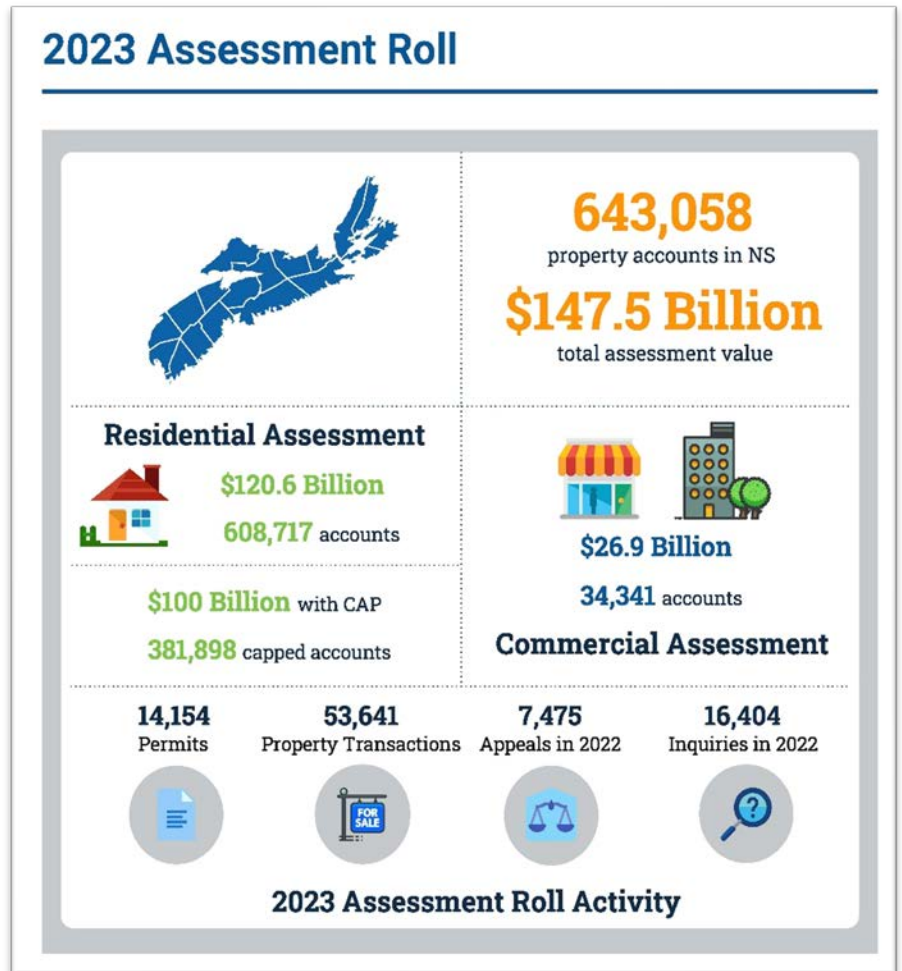
Property owners throughout Nova Scotia should have received their 2023 Property Assessment Notice last month which reflect market value as of January 1, 2022.

Assessments are determined by Property Valuation Services Corporations (PVSC), the independent, not-for-profit assessment authority for Nova Scotia.

Municipal units set property tax rates but do not determine the property's assessment value.

2023 Property assessments are based on sales and financial data from the 2021 calendar year, along with the physical state of properties as of Dec. 1, 2022, including new construction, renovations, demolitions and impacts of Hurricane Fiona.

This year's rate for the provincial government's Capped Assessment Program (CAP) is 7.7 per cent. The CAP rate reflects the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Nova Scotia. The CAP limits the annual increase in taxable assessment for eligible residential properties to no more than the CPI rate for the year. About 63 per cent of residential assessments, 381,898 property accounts, qualify for CAP in 2023.



2023 Assessment Values that include market and new growth and exempt accounts

MOPC	2023	2022
Total Residential	\$2,446,426,400	\$2,087,494,800
Total Residential with CAP	\$2,025,601,800	\$1,832,161,500
Total Commercial	\$370,027,500	\$37,755,700
Total Assessment Roll	\$2,816,453,900	\$2,442,087,800

Property owners are encouraged to review their Property Assessment Notice and contact PVSC if they have questions. Assessors can discuss assessments and answer questions by calling 1-800380-7775 or email inquiry@pvsc.ca, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit pvsc.ca

Rural Youth Impacted by Volunteer Engagement

Be a Role Model with Big Brothers Big Sisters In-School Mentoring Program

Rural communities are the heartbeat of Pictou County. They are brought to life by their unique traits, culture, local heritage, and love from the people who live within them. Often, especially within rural communities, it is the volunteers that help rural communities to thrive and flourish.

Equally important to the roles of volunteers, are the roles that our young people play within our communities. They are the future and foundation to any community, whether big or small, rural or urban. When we invest in our young people, we build up our communities. Schools play a crucial role in this. It is where young people spend most of their time, learning various skills that will eventually help to propel them into successful lives, that in some capacity, lead them to give back to their communities.

People may not know that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pictou County offers a chance for community members to volunteer within local schools as In-School Mentors.

The In-School Mentoring program provides children and youth with a role model and friend to talk to and share experiences with. For one hour a week, you get to help ignite potential in the life of a young person. You can spend time together playing board games, doing crafts, having lunch, and hanging out.



It is important that we emphasize the roles of young people within our rural communities and realize the positive impact of mentoring. If you are thinking of becoming a volunteer in your community, please consider the option of becoming an in-school mentor. The weekly commitment is small but the pay off is big. You can learn more by calling 902-752-6260 or by visiting <https://pictoucounty.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca>

Free Meeting Space Available

Eastern Star Lodge, IOOF has a building in downtown Pictou (the old Tim Hortons) that has space available on the second floor for rental. There would be no cost, but members would ask that it be left as it was found. It would be available almost daily as it is only used for evening meetings.

These usage dates are for evenings only:

March 2, 6, 14, 16, 20 and 30

April 3, 11, 13, 17 and 27

May 1, 9, 11, 15 and 25

June 5, 8, 13, 19 and 22

The entire months of July and August are also available. Call 485-4248 or email: jsjennings@outlook.com

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'll be able to:

- 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!

Former East Pictou Rural High School will be demolished



Council for the Municipality of Pictou County has decided to demolish the former East Pictou Rural High School. The former school is certainly a landmark in Pictou East and holds memories for people. Still, after many attempts to find a suitable use for the building, negotiations with interested parties did not come to fruition. Since its closure, the building has been vandalized many times, which has not only caused it to look unsightly, but it is a safety concern. A request for proposals will be brought forward for demolishing the buildings on the site in 2023.



MOPC Warden Robert Parker proclaimed Feb. 19th-25th as Women's Institute Week. Members in attendance for the signing were from back, left: Christine MacKenzie, Donna MacDonald, Lynn MacLean, Monica Rivers, Lynn Langille, Betty Ann Battist and Gloria Fraser. Front, left: Ruth Wortman, past president, Warden Parker and Debbie White, president of Pictou District WI.

RURAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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.

**Landfill
Vouchers are
available for
Rural Pictou
County
residents
from May to
November.**



Municipality of the County of Pictou Municipal Grants Requests for Funding

Municipal Grant Applications for the 2023/24 fiscal period are now available from the Municipal Administration Building, 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, during normal business hours by calling 485-4311 or 752-1530. Funding awarded under this policy is intended for the non-profit sector and charitable organizations that provide community-based programs and services which replace, supplement, or complement a municipal mandate and provide benefits to one or more Council districts or the entire Municipality.

Applications must be returned no later than **February 28, 2023**, so they can be assessed in preparation for the 2023/24 General Operating Budget. This process assists in ensuring that sufficient funds are budgeted for grant purposes. Consideration of funding requests received after the approval of the General Operating Budget will be limited to the availability of unallocated funds until such time as they are exhausted.

Municipal Grant funding does not replace money available under the Municipality's Recreation Program or Municipal Services Grant Program. Applicants accustomed to receiving funds from both programs are encouraged to contact the Recreation Coordinator or their Municipal Councillor for further information and assistance.

Interested applicants may obtain a copy of the Municipality's Municipal Grants Program Policy and application form from our website at www.munpict.ca under the tab Application and Grants.



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!!!

April 16th to 22nd is Volunteer Week in the Municipality ... a time to recognize the outstanding contribution of volunteers to the vibrancy and growth of our communities and rural lifestyle. Volunteers are special individuals who give freely of their time, talents and enthusiasm for the benefit of others. Their efforts help to support many initiatives, services, events and programs, and sustain us during times of crisis.

If you know an outstanding volunteer in your community who has made a significant contribution to residents of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, we encourage you to submit a brief letter of nomination detailing their efforts. One nominee will be selected by the Municipality for official recognition.

Nomination forms can be downloaded on our website at www.munpict.ca under the tab Application and Grant Forms. They should be addressed to the undersigned and received on or before 4:30 pm on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Cindy Fraser, Recreation Coordinator
Municipality of the County of Pictou
PO Box 910 (46 Municipal Drive)
Pictou, NS - B0K 1H0
902-485-8528
cindy.fraser@munpict.ca



A Lesson in Patience and Perseverance

In September 2022, Hurricane Fiona devastated our landscape, crippled our infrastructure, and left people wondering how they would return to a state of normalcy. It was an extreme situation that called for action. To bring some relief, the MOPC organized a roadside collection of tree and brush debris that proved to be a challenging project in many ways because of our large geographical size, the onset of winter, and the cooperation involved in getting the job done. We learned from this experience and thank everyone for what was accomplished.

The MOPC Tree and Brush Removal took place from October 28 to December 19, 2022



We travelled on more than 300 roads and received more than 1000 requests for assistance.



Our original budget for the collection was \$969,338.57, and we spent 56 percent of that budget.

Seven contractors were hired, and the equipment included:

- 4 Grapple Trucks
- 2 Chippers, with Trucks
- 2 Front end Loaders
- 2 Dump Trucks
- 1 Log Grapple Truck

As well as traffic control from MOPC staff, Nova Scotia Department of Public Works, and Safety-First Control Services.

The hired contractors included:

- Fishers Tree Service
- Verhagen Demolition
- Wards towing
- L.E Sheehan Utility Services
- 3D Auto
- CCT Consulting



"We told people we would try very hard to get it done. This was the one thing we said as a county. I think most people appreciated it, and we will learn from it," - said Warden Robert Parker during Dec. 19th Finance Committee Meeting.



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 winter months include:

- Nordic Poles
- Snow Building Kit Bags
- Polar Ski Set
- Crazy Carpets
- Snowshoes
- Yaktraks
- Cross Country Skis

Pick 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

RURAL NEWS AND VIEWS



Council recognized 17-year-old Amelia Parker of Central West River, a talented young musician who is one of 11 young people in Canada, and the only Nova Scotian, to receive the 2022 MusiCounts Amplify Scholarship. She was presented a Special Recognition Certificate by Warden Robert Parker, left, and District 7 Coun. David Parker.



Tyler qualified for the senior Canadian Young Speakers competition at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto in November, where he placed second. He is the only member from the Scotsburn 4H club to ever participate in this Young Speakers Competition at the Royal Fair. He was presented a Special Recognition Certificate by Warden Robert Parker, left, and CAO Brian Cullen.



Council recently recognized Athena for being a good dog and alerting her owners Liam Green and Renee Kilburn-Green to the fire in their Waterside home. Her heroic ways have captured the hearts of many in our county and show once again how special it is to have pets in our lives. On hand for the presentation were, from the left: Warden Robert Parker, Liam Green, Renee Kilburn-Green and District 3 Coun. Darla MacKeil. Athena was presented with a certificate and dog treats on behalf of council.



The provincial government officially opened the Eureka Mills Bridge in January, with Premier Tim Houston in attendance, Devin Balodis, District 12 Coun. Chester Dewar, MOPC Warden Robert Parker and Brandon Balodis. The 135-year-old bridge was replaced this past summer in just five and a half months. It expanded from one lane to two lanes and has a sidewalk. It was built by local contractor, Balodis Construction.



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU
NOTICE OF LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTION

Application forms for a low-income exemption in the 2023/24 tax billing period are now available at the Municipal Administration Building, 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, N. S., B0K 1H0. Phone 902-485-4311 or 902-752-1530. Applications are also available on our website at www.munpict.ca under the tab applications and grants.

The exemption is available, upon application, to every person assessed with respect to taxable property in the Municipality of the County of Pictou who is a resident of the County and whose total income from all sources for 2022 was less than \$30,000.

Total income shall be as defined in Section 69(1) of the Municipal Government Act and means a person's total income from all sources for the 2022 calendar year and includes the income of all other members of the same family residing in the same household but does not include a War Veterans allowance or War Veterans pension, HST Refunds, or Child Support Payments. The exemption extends only to the property occupied by the applicant as his/her principal residence. Persons applying for the exemption must sign an affidavit regarding their income and that affidavit must be witnessed by a Commissioner of Oaths for the Province of Nova Scotia or a Municipal Councillor.

Deadline for submissions of applications: March 31, 2023.

Applications received after that date will not be considered.



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU
CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS

The Municipality of the County of Pictou currently has vacancies for the following volunteer positions:

Municipal Audit Committee (1 position)
Two-Year Term, April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025

The Committee is responsible to review the qualifications, independence, quality of service and performance of External Auditors, and to recommend to Council the appointment or discharge of External Auditors. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing the financial statements of the Municipality evaluating internal control systems and management letters and carrying out all responsibilities as outlined in Section 44(2) of the Municipal Government Act. Applicants must demonstrate a strong financial background and knowledge of accounting practices and audit routine. The Committee will meet 4 times annually.

Climate Change Advisory Committee (1 position)
Two Year term, April 1st, 2023 - March 31, 2025

The Committee is responsible to advise Municipal Council, Administration & Consultant/Project Management Team on specific matters as they pertain to the Municipality's Climate Change Adaptation Plan by fostering and promoting environmental and climate change awareness, partnerships within the community, and community engagement.

Planning Advisory Committee (2 positions)
Two Year term, April 1st, 2023 - March 31, 2025

The Committee is responsible to advise Municipal Council respecting the preparation or amendment of planning documents and planning matters generally.

Police Advisory Board (2 positions)
Two Year Term, April 1st, 2023 - March 31, 2025

The Board is responsible for providing advice to Municipal Council in relation to the enforcement of law, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime in the Municipality. The Board does not have jurisdiction relating to complaints, discipline, personnel conduct or the internal management of the RCMP. Successful applicants will be required to undergo appropriate security clearances.

Riverton Guest Home Corporation Board of Directors (1 position)
Two Year term, April 1st, 2023 - March 31, 2025

The Board is responsible for the management & operation of Valley View Villa.

Hector Arena Commission Board of Directors (1 position)
Two Year term, April 1st, 2023 - March 31, 2025

The Board is responsible for the management & operation of the Hector Arena.

Residents of the Municipality interested in these positions should submit a letter of application electronically to applications@munpict.ca no later than 12:00 Noon on February 24th, 2023. To be considered eligible for consideration, applicants must be a resident of the Municipality and must have lived in the Municipality for a minimum of six (6) months. Applications should include a brief biography which details any previous or related experience and skills that would be an asset to these positions and must supply three professional and/or volunteer-related references. These positions require a flexible work schedule to accommodate daytime and/or evening meetings.

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.

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

Weatherline: 1-833-794-3356 and use Code:01001

Boil Water Advisories will be immediately posted on our website www.munpict.ca, MOPC Social Media sites and shared with local media.

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

April 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Caribou Fire Hall

In support of the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition.

Pancakes, sausage, beans, dessert, tea, coffee and local maple syrup.

Cost: \$10 for Adults

\$6 for Children 6 to 12 years

Free for Children 5 years and under.