

# *The MOPC Spotlight*

E-newsletter



November 2024

## Introducing your 2024-2028 Municipal Council!



[WWW.MUNPICT.CA](http://WWW.MUNPICT.CA)

# Parker re-elected as Warden

PICTOU – Robert Parker has been re-elected by his fellow councillors to serve as Warden of the Municipality of Pictou County for the next four years.

The Municipality of Pictou County’s Swearing-In Ceremony and election of Warden and Deputy Warden took place during the Nov. 6, 2024 Council Meeting which was held at the deCoste Performing Arts Centre in Pictou.

“I am honoured to have been re-elected, by my fellow councillors, as Warden for the Municipality of Pictou County for a third term,” Parker said. “I look forward to working together around our Council table to make sound and fiscally responsible decisions on behalf of all our rural residents.”

Parker, who represents District 6 on Council has been a councillor for the Municipality of Pictou County since 2008 and has served as Warden since 2016.

“I will always work hard for the citizens of our rural Municipality when leading our Council, from Lismore to River John, from Mt. Thom to Caribou and all communities in between,” he said.

We have a lot of major decisions to make over the next few months and will be going into your communities looking for input on these topics. Our Council has some new faces and I am confident that we will work hard together to make good decisions and to handle carefully your hard earned tax dollars.”



Wayne Murray, who represents District 5, was re-elected as Deputy Warden. Murray served as councillor between 1982 and 2008 and again since 2016. He has been Deputy Warden since 2016.

## 2024 -2028 Councillors

District 1 - Joe MacDonald  
District 2 - Deborah Wadden  
District 3 - Darla MacKeil  
District 4 - Ronald Baillie  
District 5 - Wayne Murray  
District 6 - Robert Parker  
District 7 - Donald Parker  
District 8 - Larry Turner  
District 9 - Peter Boyles  
District 10 - Randy Palmer  
District 11 - Andy Thompson  
District 12 - Chester Dewar

## Contact the Municipality of Pictou County

### Physical Address

46 Municipal Drive  
Pictou, N.S.  
B0K 1H0

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 910  
Pictou, N.S  
B0K 1H0

### Call Us

902-485-4311  
902-752-1530



# Project Update!

The draft Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw will soon be available for public review and we will be looking for your feedback! Keep an eye on MOPC's social media, or sign up for updates on the project website below to stay in the loop. There will be multiple ways to share your feedback on the draft documents, both online and in-person. In the meantime, mark your calendar for a community workshop near you!



## Community Workshops

Join us for a community workshop in your area to learn more about the contents of the draft planning documents, ask questions and share your thoughts.



**November 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm**

Linacy Fire Hall (6735 Hwy 4, Linacy, NS)



**November 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm**

Caribou Fire Hall (512 Three Brooks Rd, Pictou, NS)



**November 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm**

Alma Fire Hall (80 Alma Loop, Westville, NS)



**December 3, 2024 at 6:30pm**

Union Centre Community Hall (1 Salter Rd, Union Centre, NS)



**December 9, 2024 at 6:30pm**

Plymouth Fire Hall (4467 East River Side Rd, Plymouth, NS)



**December 12, 2024 at 6:30pm**

Scotsburn Fire Hall (4179 Scotsburn Rd, Scotsburn, NS)

## Stay Involved

To learn more about the project, sign up for project updates and stay involved, please visit [www.imagineMOPC.ca](http://www.imagineMOPC.ca)



## What is Imagine MOPC?

In September 2023, the Municipality of Pictou County (MOPC) launched "Imagine MOPC", a project to develop a municipality-wide 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 the 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 MOPC into compliance with this provincial mandate.

# Insurance Impact

**QUESTION: Who decides where it is safe to live and work?**

**ANSWER: Ultimately, Mother Nature and the insurance industry will likely determine where it's safe to live and work.**

As climate change affects which parts of the County may flood or burn, insurance costs will impact future property values and locations. Owners of properties in floodplains, on eroding coastlines, or near woodlands may face higher insurance rates or lose coverage entirely.

North American insurers in places like California and Florida have already stopped covering high-risk areas due to hurricanes, wildfires, and floods.

Nova Scotia had the highest insured losses in Canada in 2023 and the second highest in 2022. The Insurance Bureau of Canada reported payouts of \$581 million in 2022 and \$611 million in 2023.

A survey found that 92% of business leaders believe extreme weather is now normal and expect climate-related damage this year.

Should the County allow more development in risky areas, or let the insurance industry decide where affordable housing and businesses can go? The risk is discovering too late that insurance coverage has been dropped.



## Planning ahead

To address these issues, the MOPC plans to:

- Develop new by-laws to discourage building in floodplains and erosion-prone areas.
- Add these by-law requirements to the MOPC Municipal Planning Strategy.
- Collaborate with nearby counties to create consistent land use by-laws along the Northumberland Strait.

# An unhealthy change

## Climate change has an impact on health

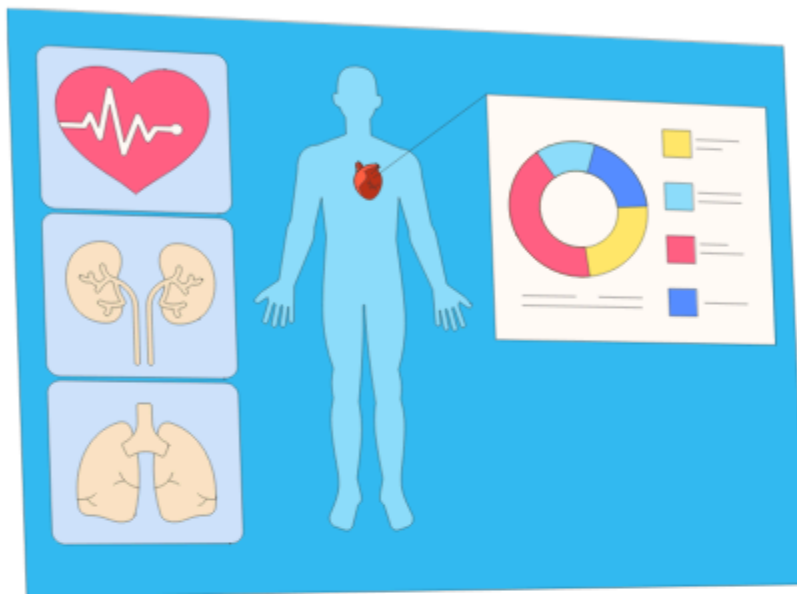
Climate change makes natural hazards like storms, floods, and heatwaves worse, leading to injuries and health problems like heart and lung diseases.

Vulnerable groups, including Indigenous peoples and rural residents, face greater risks due to less infrastructure and existing challenges.

Water quality and quantity are affected by changes in precipitation and temperature. This can threaten drinking water, increase waterborne diseases, and cause injuries from heavy rainfall.

Air pollution also worsens due to climate change, with wildfires and more pollen contributing to poorer air quality. This affects people with conditions like asthma or heart disease, especially the elderly and children.

Extreme weather events like floods can also harm indoor air quality.



Mental health can suffer from both short-term events like hurricanes and long-term changes like sea-level rise. These disruptions can cause fear, grief, anxiety, and weaken community bonds.

### What can be done?

Improve health services and safety measures to protect people from these impacts.

### Whom to call

**To report a problem with a streetlight call 902-485-1201 or email [outages@munpict.ca](mailto:outages@munpict.ca)**

**If you have a MOPC Public Works Emergency after hours call 902-301-1825**

**For weather forecasts call the weatherline at 1-833-794-3356 and use code: 01001**





# LANDFILL VOUCHERS AVAILABLE UNTIL NOV. 30

Landfill Vouchers from the MOPC are available from May 1st to Nov. 30th.

We can mail them out to you or you can stop by our Administration Office at 46 Municipal Drive in Pictou between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. Monday to Friday.

Call our finance department at 902-485-4311 for more information or email [tax@munpict.ca](mailto:tax@munpict.ca).

Vouchers are given free of charge to people who own homes or cottages in rural Pictou County. Vacant landowners, wood lot owners, etc, do not qualify for such vouchers. Each voucher will cover the tipping fee for up to 250 kg of garbage at the Mount William Transfer Station. They can be used individually or in combination for a maximum total of 1,000 kg.



# Grand Opening



Warden Robert Parker and Councillor Deborah Wadden attended and spoke at the official grand opening of the DeCoste Culture Hub on Nov. 1, 2024. The new facility houses both the deCoste Performing Arts Centre and the Pictou branch of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library.

The Municipality of Pictou County has been a proud supporter of this project which is enjoyed by many residents of the municipality.

# Milestone



Violet Kathleen (Kay) Shreenan celebrated her 90th birthday at the West River Firehall on Nov. 9, 2024. Former Councillor David Parker and newly elected Councillor Donnie Parker presented her with a Certificate of Birthday Greetings from the MOPC.

## 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       | 902-923-2394 | cliffjardine@hotmail.com   |
| Little Harbour Fire | 8328 Pictou Landing Road, Little Harbour | Little Harbour Area |              | 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 |



# MEETING NOTICE



**7 P.M. DECEMBER 4**

**WEST RIVER FIRE HALL**

This meeting is for Ratepayers of the West River Fire Department to consider the financial situation of the fire department and to discuss a possible increase in the area fire rate.

– David Parker  
Chair of Fire Department Board