

The MOPC Spotlight

E-newsletter



September 2024



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The rebuilt Jitney Trail Gut Bridge officially opened on Aug. 30, 2024.

Election 2024

The nominations are in and residents of Pictou County will soon be headed to the polls to choose their councillors in the 2024 Municipal Election.

All voting in the upcoming Oct. 19 election will be electronic. Voters will have the option to vote online or by phone. Voter cards and more information will be mailed out. Residents can expect this information to arrive by the first week of October. Those who do not receive a voter card by that time or would like to confirm they're registered to vote should contact the Returning Office at (902) 485-2253.

There will be two kiosks set up for those requiring assistance on Oct. 12, 2024, from noon to 8 p.m. and Oct. 15, 2024, from noon to 8 p.m. Kiosks will be set up at the Pictou County Wellness Centre and Scotsburn Fire Hall ONLY for anyone requiring assistance.

Residents will be able to cast their ballots starting at noon on Oct. 6, 2024, through 7 p.m. on Oct. 19, 2024. This can be done with any electronic device, phone or, for those requiring assistance, at a kiosk between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Oct. 19, 2024.

If you are unsure if you're registered to vote or have changes to update, you can contact the Returning Office at (902) 485-2253. Any revisions should be received by Oct. 7, 2024. Visit www.electionspictoucounty.ca for the latest election information.



The candidates for the Municipality of Pictou County

DISTRICT 1

Joe MacDonald
Daniel Muir

District 2

Deborah G. Wadden - Acclaimed

District 3

Darla MacKeil
Robbie MacInnis

District 4

Ronnie Baillie
Mary Wooldridge-Elliott

District 5

Wayne Murray - Acclaimed

District 6

Robert G. Parker - Acclaimed

District 7

Christina Cameron
Donald Parker

District 8

Peter Baird
Francis Sanders
Larry Turner

District 9

Peter Boyles
Monica Thomsen

District 10

Donna MacGregor
J. Randy Palmer

District 11

Gregg MacDonald
Andy Thompson

District 12

Chester F. Dewar - Acclaimed

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

Bridge reopens on Jitney Trail

The Jitney Trail's Gut Bridge is officially open. A grand opening ceremony for the bridge, which borders the Town of Pictou and Municipality of Pictou County, was held, Aug. 30, 2024.

The new bridge replaced one that was destroyed by a fire in 2022.

The project, which came at a cost of \$705,000 was made possible through a \$220,000 contribution from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), as well as funding from the Province of Nova Scotia of \$200,000, the Municipality of Pictou County at \$100,000 and the Town of Pictou at \$185,000.

The trail bridge, locally known as the Gut Bridge, is a vital part of the trail system that ties Pictou to the larger regional and national networks, including the Trans Canada Trail, Nova Scotia's Blue Route cycling network, and the International Appalachian Trail.

"The loss of Gut Bridge was a blow to the community, but it also presented an opportunity to reimagine this essential link," said Central Nova MP Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities. "The newly reopened bridge will provide safe, easy entry into the Town and County of Pictou for residents and visitors alike, increasing tourism opportunities and bringing more people to Pictou Waterfront and surrounding areas for years to come."

Built by Partners Construction, the new 130-foot free-span bridge features a durable metal structure with a coated steel deck and a 10-foot width. The free-span design, which eliminates any piers or obstructions in the waterway below, enhances navigation for small watercraft and improves the overall environmental sustainability of the site. Enhanced shoreline protection and improved materials ensure the bridge is resilient against future fire or damage.

"I am happy to see the beloved Jitney Trail Bridge, also known as the Gut Bridge, reopen to the public once again," said Pictou West MLA Marco MacLeod. "With the completion of construction, folks from Pictou and abroad can enjoy the scenic beauty and history of our community for many years to come."



Warden Robert Parker, second from right, joined Central Nova MP Sean Fraser, Pictou Mayor Jim Ryan and Pictou West MLA Marco MacLeod for the opening of the Jitney Trail Bridge.

The reopening of the bridge symbolizes more than just a crossing; it restores a community connection, reigniting the energy and accessibility of the Jitney Trail.

"The Jitney bridge replacement serves to strengthen the region's important trail infrastructure and provide renewed opportunities for active living", said Town of Pictou Mayor Jim Ryan. "We look forward to increased visitation to the area that will benefit the community and local businesses".

"The Municipality of Pictou County has always been a proud supporter of all organized trails in our rural Municipality. When the former gut bridge was destroyed by fire, although not legally in our Municipality, it was seen as a huge loss to many residents who used the Jitney Trail as a connector between our two municipalities. There was never a doubt that we would partner with the Town of Pictou and other senior levels of government to build a new bridge to restore this valuable connector. We are happy that the MOPC grants helped make this project a success. Many residents will benefit in both their physical and mental health because of the joint efforts of various governments, as it should be".

The Jitney Trail has always been a place where locals and visitors alike come together to experience the natural beauty and history of Pictou. The completion of this new bridge marks an exciting new chapter for the trail and the community it serves.

Coastal erosion and flooding

Coastal erosion occurs when the land along the coast wears away because of waves, currents, and tides. When storms are strong, they make erosion happen faster. For example, big storms like Hurricane Fiona cause more flooding and erosion along the coast.

People in Pictou County have noticed the coast is eroding more quickly now. Climate change makes this worse by causing bigger storms and reducing ice that protects the shoreline.

A Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change report in 2022 advises that Pictou County will be one of the most vulnerable Nova Scotian counties to coastal and river flooding in the 2030s. For further information visit:
<https://climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/understanding-climate-change-impacts-technical-synthesis.pdf>

Historical rates of erosion have been measured, but not in a comprehensive way across Atlantic Canada. In the Northumberland Strait, erosion happens at different speeds depending on the land type. For instance, cliffs erode at 0.26 meters per year, while beaches erode at 1 meter per year.

Impacts

Erosion and flooding can damage roads, bridges, and homes. This can lead to job losses, problems with drinking water, and less recreational space. It also harms the environment by reducing the quality of water and increasing pollution.

To tackle these problems, MOPC plans to:

- Make a database to track floods, coastal changes, and river flows.
- Create an easy-to-use tool for property owners to check erosion and flooding risks.
- Change or add new rules to guide building in high-risk areas.
- Encourage people to take steps to protect their properties from flooding.



Introduction to Public Education on Climate Impacts

Recognizing the implications of climate change, in 2019 the Municipality of Pictou County (MOPC) Council formed a Climate Change Advisory Committee composed of County Councillors and citizen representatives.

In February 2022, the Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and committed to reducing its carbon footprint to net-zero and to assist its citizens, businesses, and community organizations reduce fossil fuel consumption. To follow through on this commitment, in July 2023 the Advisory Committee commissioned the preparation of a Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP).

As part of the MCCAP development, the Advisory Committee is conducting a public education and engagement program. Over the next 5 weeks, MOPC will release information on the impacts of climate change on Pictou County, which will be followed by a series of townhall meetings to engage with interested citizens.

The proposed locations for the engagement meetings are Abercrombie Community Centre, Caribou Fire Hall, Durham Community Hall, Eureka Fire Hall, Hillside Community Hall, Little Harbour Community Centre, Merigomish School House Community Centre, and River John Legion. Watch for announcements on the dates for these events on the MOPC website and social media platforms.

Grand Opening *of* CarbonRun's Inaugural Project

We are pleased to invite you to the official launch of our West River Pictou, River Alkalinity Enhancement (RAE) Project. This event marks a significant milestone for CarbonRun and a major step forward in promoting environmental sustainability, healthy rivers and climate action in Canada.



Wednesday, October 16th



1:00pm - 3:00pm



West River, Pictou County, NS

This event will showcase the facility's state-of-the-art technology and its positive impact on the environment. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about CarbonRun's mission and its contributions to a healthier planet, as well as engage with company representatives, environmental experts, and interested local parties.

Please RSVP at engage@carbonrun.io to receive further information about the location, agenda, and to indicate if you would like to join a complimentary transportation shuttle, from downtown Halifax (available on a first-come, first-served basis).

We look forward to having you join us for this important event as we take a decisive step towards a sustainable future.





MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS

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

Planning Advisory Committee (1 position)

2-year term, expiring March 31, 2026

The Committee is responsible for advising the Municipal Council, respecting the preparation or amendment of planning documents and planning matters generally.

Accessibility Committee (2 Positions)

2-year term ending March 31, 2026

The Accessibility Committee members provide input to municipal staff members on setting priorities for accessibility to be responsive to the needs of people with various abilities. The Municipality strives to be welcoming, inclusive and accepting community to all people. Committee members will work to identify, remove, and prevent accessible barriers and meet the requirements of the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act.

Hector Arena Commission (1Position)

Two Year term, December 2024 - March 31, 2026

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

Water Source Protection – Pictou (1 Position)

2-year term ending March 31, 2026

This advisory committee comprises elected and non-elected members from the Town of Pictou and the Municipality of the County of Pictou. Its objective is to take an educational and advisory role in protecting wellfields.

To be considered eligible for any of these committees, applicants must be residents of the Municipality and have lived there for a minimum of six (6) months. Applications should include a brief biography detailing any previous or related experience and skills that would be an asset to these positions, and applicants must supply three professional and/or volunteer-related references.

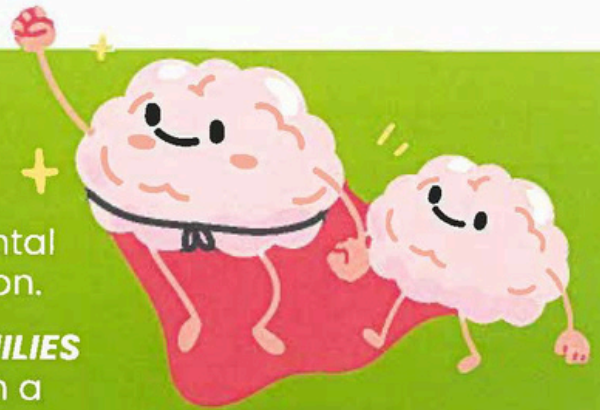
The deadline to apply is October 15th, 2024. Applications can be dropped off at the Municipal Administration Building, 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou; mailed to the Municipality of Pictou County, PO Box 910, Pictou, NS, B0K 1H0, or emailed to sueann.musick@munpict.ca.

MENTAL WELLNESS & EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM



FORBOW is a research program from Dalhousie University and Nova Scotia Health now offering services in **Pictou County**. We work with families to prevent the cycle of mental illness through early detection and intervention.

Enrolment is open to **ALL NOVA SCOTIAN FAMILIES** with children aged 9-24, especially those with a family history of mental illness.



ANNUAL MEETINGS

Talk with our team, answer questions, & complete activities.



TIME COMMITMENT

3-5 hours per visit, including breaks.



ONGOING SUPPORT

Regular follow-ups to monitor & support wellbeing.



PREVENTION & SUPPORT

Focus on supporting positive mental wellbeing in youth.



PEACE OF MIND

Regular attention to your child's mental health as they grow.



ACCESS TO INTERVENTIONS

Potential eligibility for additional studies or our TIDE intervention program if needed.

Learn more and find out if your family is eligible to participate!

forbow.org/pictoucounty



GO PLAY FUND

WHAT IS THE GO PLAY FUND?

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

WHY PLAY?



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

WANT TO HELP? DONATE!

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



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

AM I ELIGIBLE?

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



HOW DO I APPLY?

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



More Questions? Email clare.steele@munpict.ca