



# Rural News and Views

46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, Nova Scotia - Winter 2021



A guided hike was recently held at the Caribou Provincial Park.

## Let's Hike

The Municipality of Pictou County, in partnership with Active Pictou County, Hike Nova Scotia, and the Town of Pictou, is hosting free guided hikes in February and March.

The hikes will be led by our Active Communities Coordinator Clare Steele at Salt Springs Provincial Park on Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. and Fitzpatrick Mountain on Mar. 19 at 10 a.m.

To register, call 902-485-2247 or email [clare.steele@munpict.ca](mailto:clare.steele@munpict.ca).

Pre-registration is required. Snowshoes will be available if needed. Public health measures will be in place. The MOPC has snowshoes and cross-country skis available for loan throughout the winter months. The equipment can be accessed by contacting our recreation department at 902-485-2247. For more information on free guided hikes in the Highland Region, visit [www.hikenovascotia.ca](http://www.hikenovascotia.ca).



### We are now Live and Online

You can view our monthly meetings online. The first Monday of the month, the MOPC hosts its Council meeting and the third Monday, it hosts property and finance committee meetings. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and you can view them live by clicking on a link posted on our website [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca)

Don't Miss the latest in Municipality News and Events. Check out [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca) as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages at Municipality of Pictou County.



## MOPC Staff Directory

Chief Administrative Officer

Brian Cullen

[brian.cullen@munpict.ca](mailto:brian.cullen@munpict.ca)

Deputy Clerk

Carolyn MacIntosh

[carolyn.macintosh@munpict.ca](mailto:carolyn.macintosh@munpict.ca)

### Communications

Sueann Musick

[sueann.musick@munpict.ca](mailto:sueann.musick@munpict.ca)

### Finance Office

Deputy Municipal Treasurer

Karen Cornish

[karen.cornish@munpict.ca](mailto:karen.cornish@munpict.ca)

### Public Works

Call 902-485-4085 between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Emergency Phone Number:

902-301-1825

### By-law Officer

Anne MacCarthy

[anne.maccarthy@munpict.ca](mailto:anne.maccarthy@munpict.ca)

### GIS Technician

Kevin Burley

[kevin.burley@munpict.ca](mailto:kevin.burley@munpict.ca)

### Building Inspection

Mike McKenzie

[mike.mckenzie@munpict.ca](mailto:mike.mckenzie@munpict.ca)

Travis Spears

[travis.spears@munpict.ca](mailto:travis.spears@munpict.ca)

[buildingpermits@munpict.ca](mailto:buildingpermits@munpict.ca)

### Recreation

Cindy Fraser

[cindy.fraser@munpict.ca](mailto:cindy.fraser@munpict.ca)

Clare Steele

[clare.steel@munpict.ca](mailto:clare.steel@munpict.ca)

**Main office phone number:**

**902-485-4311**

**902-752-1530**

**We are located at:**

**46 Municipal Drive,**

**Pictou, NS, B0K 1H0**

**Mailing Address:**

**P.O. Box 910, Pictou**

**NS B0K 1H0**



## A Message from the Warden

I hope everyone had a reasonably good start to 2021, although we are living in the middle of a pandemic. Our Council continues to work toward a day when all residents will have good quality high-speed internet service and much-improved cell service.

Our Fire Liaison Committee and our Council have reviewed our fire service in our rural areas for the last year and a half. One of the goals is to find a fairer way of funding our 18 fire departments. Our current funding formula is based on assessment only and leads to a deep divide depending on where assessments are growing faster and where they are not. At the same time, we are looking at other means to allow our rural volunteer departments to operate more efficiently and with the most up to date systems available to make better use of dollars and best serve all residents. We are working with the fire chiefs because they are the ones that know the job of putting out fires and attending accidents and other emergencies. We would never want to do anything to negatively affect our fire departments. Our responsibility is to make sure funding is done fairly and look for efficiencies in our operations.

Recreation is a large responsibility of our Council. We commissioned a study about three years ago, and a committee visited many of our rural communities for input on what we need and what we could do better. One of the first things we did was hire another person to help our lone person in that department. Then COVID-19 came along and greatly slowed down the ability of groups to gather. A lot of groups, both with and without buildings, struggle to pay their operating bills when they can hold either no or very limited functions. Council is considering putting extra dollars into the municipal service grants for this year only so that councillors can assist recreation groups in their area. Council is also looking into the high cost of insurance for recreational groups, including liability insurance for many volunteer directors. Ultimately, Council is responsible to you, all the residents in rural Pictou County. If you do not know what your Council is doing, then we need to change that. Our first significant improvement was putting one staff member solely in charge of communications. That includes this publication quarterly along with our website, Facebook, and Twitter pages. Our next big venture to keep you better informed is to livestream our Council meetings. Hopefully, this keeps everyone in the know and allows you to see how difficult it can be, at times, to come to decisions on issues. On behalf of my fellow councillors and our staff, I wish you and your families good health and much happiness. Please, also carefully watch yours and your family's mental health.



## RURAL NEWS AND VIEWS



Congratulations to the Little Harbour Community Centre on the addition of a new pavilion. Volunteers are also actively working to have a pickleball court on-site.

### Did you know?

**Landfill vouchers are available from May to November.** They can be mailed out to eligible MOPC residents or picked up at our administration building ONLY during this time.

**You can register your dog with the MOPC** for \$10 for the neutered/spayed pet's life, and if the tag is lost, there a \$1 replacement fee.

**Parking is not permitted directly in front,** on the same side of the road, of the Janice Murray Gill Memorial Library.

Motorists can park on the opposite of the road and still access free Wi-Fi. Parking is not permitted directly in front of the library because new curbing in that area has narrowed the roadway and makes it difficult for oncoming vehicles to pass each other safely.



### 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Congratulations were extended from the Municipality of Pictou County to Margaret Rose Henderson of River John who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Mrs. Henderson was visited by District 4 Coun. Mary Elliott and Warden Robert Parker during which time she was presented with a plaque in recognition of her birthday.

### MOPC COUNCIL

District 1 Don Butler

**902-926-2589**

**don.butler@municip.ca**

District 2 Deborah Wadden

**902-752-1303**

**deborah.wadden@municip.ca**

District 3 Darla MacKeil

**902-759-2792**

**darla.mackeil@municip.ca**

District 4 Mary Elliott

**902-351-2794**

**mary.elliott@municip.ca**

District 5 Wayne Murray

**902-485-9194**

**wayne.murray@municip.ca**

District 6 Robert Parker

**902-925-2240**

**robert.parker@municip.ca**

District 7 David Parker

**902-396-3481**

**david.parker@municip.ca**

District 8 Larry Turner

**902-752-6741**

**larry.turner@municip.ca**

District 9 Peter Boyles

**902-755-3938**

**peter.boyles@municip.ca**

District 10 Randy Palmer

**902-922-2277**

**randy.palmer@municip.ca**

District 11 Andy Thompson

**902-754-0101**

**andy.thompson@municip.ca**

District 12 Chester Dewar

**902-923-2931**

**chester.dewar@municip.ca**

**MOPC WEBSITE:**

**www.municip.ca**

**Facebook and Twitter Pages:**

**Municipality of Pictou County**

**Long Time Service Recognition**

Warden Robert Parker recently presented three MOPC employees with long time service awards.



**CAO Brian Cullen**  
15 years



**Administrative Assistant Jane Johnson**  
20 years



**Jennifer Boyce**  
**Accounts Payable Payroll clerk**  
15 years



Warden Robert Parker recently signed a proclamation officially declaring Feb. 14-21 as Women’s Institute Week in Pictou County. Each district will be hosting safe activities in celebration of the Women’s Institute, which has existed in the county for the past 108 years. On hand for the signing with the Warden were, from the left, Ruth Wortman, Pictou County WI District President, and Eleanor Lilly, Nova Scotia President of the Women’s Institute.

**District 8 News**



The county faces some very challenging issues. The recently elected Council has a very ambitious agenda to deal with each issue. One major issue that needs to be addressed is rural depopulation.

One essential tool we are working on to combat this trend is the rural internet project. It is a project with many moving pieces that will take considerable effort and leadership, but the results will help shape the future of Pictou County.

Council continues to address environmental sustainability issues, building a commercial and residential tax base and developing infrastructure to support growth. The next four years have the potential to be transformative. The initiatives are going to be hard, but the Council is up to the challenges.

*Larry Turner*  
*Councillor for District 8*

**New NSFM Rural Caucus**



District 2 Coun. Deborah Wadden was recently elected to the rural caucus of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.

Coun. Wadden will continue to represent District 2 as well as represent rural concerns at the provincial level. The NSFM Rural Caucus assumes an advocacy role promoting awareness of the issues facing rural municipalities. Meetings are arranged so that the 169 members of the rural caucus can discuss issues of common concern and create a voice in support of rural municipalities.



# INFORMATION GUIDE

## REMO Regional Emergency Management Organization Pictou County

Residents of Pictou County:

It has been many months since the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in Nova Scotia. The recent spike in cases this fall has proven how quickly it can spread when we are not cautious. Scientists said from the beginning of this pandemic that we would see a second wave of this virus in late 2020 and now we are seeing those predictions come true.

Vaccines are officially here in Nova Scotia. There are limited numbers of the vaccine, but more are on the way. It will take time for everyone to have the opportunity to receive one, but this is a promising start.

We know you are tired. We know that you want to see family and friends who have been unable to visit because of travel restrictions. We know your mental health is being put to the test as you wonder how much longer we will need to live this way, but we need you to continue to hold the line.



Please follow physical distancing guidelines and mask requirements this winter. Wash your hands regularly, shop locally when you need to, and limit the number of people in your social bubble so your contact with others is low.

Your municipal units have been working together as part of REMO from the beginning of this pandemic. They have been making sure you are aware of the latest provincial and municipal updates involving COVID-19. We are not slowing down now.

Watch our Facebook and Twitter pages as well as our website at [www.remopictoucounty.ca](http://www.remopictoucounty.ca) for up-to-date information. We will continue to work together to ensure you are provided with essential services, as well as offering support to local businesses and community groups that play an important role in keeping us healthy both physically and mentally.

On behalf of REMO Pictou County, we would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to all the front-line workers, businesses, and residents who have been following the NS Department of Health guidelines in an effort to keep us safe. We are all in this together!

Take Care,  
John Davison,  
Coordinator of Pictou County Regional Emergency Management Organization

 @REMO—Regional Emergency Management Organization Pictou County

 @REMOPictouCo

 [remopictoucounty.ca](http://remopictoucounty.ca)

 Public Information Officer | Community Liaison  
[paige.clarke@stellarton.ca](mailto:paige.clarke@stellarton.ca) | 902-921-1515



# INFORMATION GUIDE

## 72 HOUR PREPAREDNESS

When an emergency happens, you will need to have some things ready to use at a moment's notice. You can prepare an emergency kit at any time, so you are more prepared when the worst happens—and so you don't forget something important in the rush of the moment! It is recommended that you be prepared for at least 72 hours.

During the winter months, your emergency kit should be equipped with essential items to keep you warm in the event you're without heat. Additional sweaters, blankets, warm socks, hats, and mittens, would all be beneficial in your kit.



If you have small children and/or pets, consider including extra formula or food, hygiene products, and toys or other entertainment items.



Other items you should consider for your Emergency Kit include: extra change of clothes for each household member; hygiene products and toiletries; sleeping bags or blankets; basic tools (utility knife, hammer, screwdriver, etc.); candles or kerosene lanterns; camp stove; hand sanitizer and face masks; garbage bags.

Here are some basic things to include in your kit:

	<b>2L of water per person</b> (in small bottles for portability)
	<b>Food</b> (canned goods, energy bars, dried foods, etc.)
	<b>Manual can and bottle openers</b>
	<b>Hand crank, battery, or solar powered LED flashlight</b> (with extra batteries)
	<b>Hand crank, battery, or solar powered radio</b> (with extra batteries)
	<b>First Aid Kit</b>
	<b>Prescription medications</b>
	<b>Copies of important family documents</b> (insurance, contacts, etc.)
	<b>Cash</b> (including smaller bills)
	<b>Spare Keys</b> (house, car, etc.)
	<b>Fire Extinguisher</b>

(Some information from Public Safety Canada)

### LOCAL NON-EMERGENCY CONTACTS

**New Glasgow Regional Police:** (902) 752-1941

**Stellarton Police Department:** (902) 752-6160

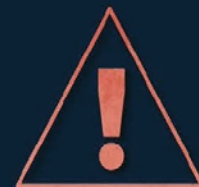
**Westville Police Department:** (902) 396-2777

**Pictou County District RCMP**

*Stellarton Detachment:* (902) 755-4141

*Pictou Detachment:* (902) 485-4333

911 is only for  
emergency or  
life-threatening  
situations



[novascotia.ca/coronavirus](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus)

NOVASCOTIA

## BEING ACTIVE & STAYING SAFE

Getting out to be physically active and enjoying nature can be extremely beneficial for your physical and mental health. During these challenging times, it's important to ensure that you're taking steps to care for your mental health while still remaining safe from COVID-19.



There are many activities that you and your family can take part in over the winter. Here are a few recommendations to stay safe this season:

### Considerations:

- Is the event outside?
- Will it be easy to physically distance?
- Will the facility allow for gathering limits to be followed?
- Is equipment required? Is it provided? How will it be shared and sanitized?

### Tips & Recommendations:

- Local trails can easily allow for physical distancing guidelines.
- Wear a mask for indoor activities.
- Virtual and outdoor opportunities can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3oaRUEe>

### For local recreation info, contact your Municipality's recreation service:

County of Pictou | 902-485-2247  
clare.steele@munpict.ca

Pictou | 902-485-4372  
info@townofpictou.ca

Trenton | 902-752-1019  
craig.murray@trenton.ca

New Glasgow | 902-755-8363  
recreation@newglasgow.ca

Stellarton | 902-752-2114  
town.office@stellarton.ca

Westville | 902-396-1059  
michael.thompson@westville.ca

Pictou Landing First Nation | 902-616-2071

*\*Equipment loan programs are available in some Municipal units and through your local libraries!*

## ICE SAFETY

During the winter months, many individuals take to naturally occurring ice surfaces to participate in outdoor recreational activities. While this can be a fun way to enjoy the outdoors, you should always exercise caution before hitting the ice. Ensure that you know when ice is safe to be on with these tips:

### Factors affecting ice thickness:

- Water depth & size of body of water.
- Currents, tides, & other moving water.
- Chemicals, including salt.
- Fluctuations in water levels.
- Logs, rocks, and docks absorbing heat from the sun.
- Changing air temperature.
- Shock waves from vehicles travelling on the ice.

### Ice colour:

- Clear blue ice is strongest.
- White opaque or snow ice is half as strong as blue ice.
- Grey ice is unsafe; this notes the presence of water.

### Ice thickness:

- Ice should be 15cm thick for skating alone or walking.
- Ice should be 20cm thick for skating parties or games.
- Ice should be 25cm for snowmobiles.



*\*Check with local authorities before heading out & avoid going on ice at night.*





**When you don't know  
where to turn.™**

211 is a free, confidential information and referral service for thousands of community and social services available across the province. It is available throughout the province – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – by dialing “2-1-1” to speak to a helpful staff member or by searching the easy-to-use online database at [www.ns.211.ca](http://www.ns.211.ca). You can also email [help@ns.211](mailto:help@ns.211) and between the hours of 12 pm - 4 pm Monday to Friday, chat online or text 21167 for help finding resources.

### ***Municipal Info***

#### *Municipality of Pictou County*

Phone Number: 902-485-4311  
After Hours: Public Works Only - 902-301-1825  
Website: [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca)  
Facebook: Municipality of Pictou County  
Twitter: Municipality of Pictou County  
Inquiries: [carolyn.macintosh@munpict.ca](mailto:carolyn.macintosh@munpict.ca)

#### *Town of Stellarton*

Phone Number: 902-752-2114  
After Hours: 902-752-6160 (24 hour monitoring)  
Website: <https://stellarton.ca>  
Facebook: @TownOfStellarton  
Twitter: @StellartonTown  
Instagram: @TownOfStellarton

#### *Town of New Glasgow*

Phone Number: 902-755-7788  
After Hours: Public Works - 902-755-4208  
Website: [www.newglasgow.ca](http://www.newglasgow.ca)  
Facebook: @NewGlasgowNovaScotia  
Twitter: @NewGlasgowNS  
Instagram: @TownofNewGlasgow  
Inquiries: [inquiries@newglasgow.ca](mailto:inquiries@newglasgow.ca)

#### *Town of Pictou*

Phone Number: 902-485-4372  
After Hours: 902-485-4372  
Website: [www.townofpictou.ca](http://www.townofpictou.ca)  
Facebook: @TownofPictou

#### *Town of Westville*

Phone Number: 902-396-1500  
After Hours: 902-752-6160  
Website: [www.westville.ca](http://www.westville.ca)  
Facebook: Town of Westville

#### *Town of Trenton*

Phone Number: 902-752-5311  
After Hours: 902-752-1941  
Website: [www.town.trenton.ns.ca](http://www.town.trenton.ns.ca)  
Facebook: Town of Trenton

### ***Important Contact Information:***

Department of Environment 902-396-4194  
Government of Canada 1-833-784-4397  
Health Information NS 811 OR 1-866-770-7763  
Information Services NS 211  
NS Road Conditions 511  
United Way Pictou County 902-755-1754

Pictou County Food Bank East 902-755-2906  
Pictou West Food Bank 902-485-8996  
Pictou County Fuel Fund 902-755-2886  
Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network 902-755-2244  
Pictou County Women's Resource Centre 902-755-4647

### ***Mental Health Services***

Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868  
Mental Health & Addictions 1-855-922-1122

Mental Health Crisis Line 1-888-429-8167  
Domestic Violence Help/Info 1-855-225-0220

Mental Health Info: [www.ementalhealth.ca](http://www.ementalhealth.ca)

TIR Nova Scotia Road Conditions: [511.novascotia.ca/en/index.html](http://511.novascotia.ca/en/index.html)

Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network: [www.pictoucounty.com](http://www.pictoucounty.com) | Facebook: @PictouCountyREN

Province of Nova Scotia: Coronavirus Information: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

Public Health Offices: <https://www.nshealth.ca/public-health-offices>

Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/canadas-response.html>



# MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Where to Get Support in Nova Scotia during COVID-19



**1 MENTAL HEALTH MOBILE CRISIS TEAM**  
**902-429-8167 or 1-888-429-8167 (Toll Free)**

The Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team provides crisis support for children, youth and adults experiencing a mental health crisis by phone 24/7 anywhere in Nova Scotia and a Mobile Response from 1 pm to 1am to most Halifax area communities.



**2 KIDS HELP PHONE**  
**1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868**

Kids Help Phone is always there for you. No matter what you want to talk about. No judgment, totally private, 24/7. Live Chat is currently open daily from 1 am to 8 am to provide more timely access to support through their other services.



**3 MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS INTAKE SERVICE**  
**1-855-922-1122**

If you need help with a mental health and addictions concern, Nova Scotia Mental Health and Addictions team can help. They're available to take your call Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm. The line is voicemail-only evenings, weekends and holidays.



**4 CMHA NOVA SCOTIA**  
**1-877-466-6606 (Toll Free)**

CMHA NS continues to provide non-clinical mental health psycho-social support throughout COVID-19. They are committed to keeping communities and clients safe and their services supportive and welcoming. Visit [novascotia.cmha.ca](http://novascotia.cmha.ca).



**5 HEALTHY MINDS PATIENT NAVIGATOR**  
**902-404-3504**

Healthy Minds Cooperative is an innovative mental health cooperative providing a variety of peer-based services to people with lived experience of mental health issues and their families. HMC is available 9-5 Monday-Friday by phone and email.



**6 STRONGEST FAMILIES I-CAN ANXIETY PROGRAM**  
**1-866-470-7111 (Toll Free)**

This program educates and teaches adults 18+ skills to overcome their anxiety, excessive worry, and learn how to cope with major life stressors. Participants are provided with access to a secure website, programming, and weekly phone support. Visit [strongestfamilies.com](http://strongestfamilies.com).



**7 211 NOVA SCOTIA**

211 Nova Scotia is a free helpline that connects you with community groups, social services and government programs in your area 24/7. Support is available in over 150 languages. Call or visit [ns.211.ca](http://ns.211.ca)

## COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

Vaccines are products that help protect you from viruses that cause illnesses like COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine will be free for everyone in Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan includes a 3-phase approach. As more vaccine is received, more groups will become eligible to get the vaccine.

### Phase 1

The first phase of Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan runs from January to April 2021. During this phase, the focus is to immunize priority groups and develop, test, and evaluate different ways to deliver the vaccine before larger amounts of vaccine arrive for the second phase.

### Phase 2

The second phase of Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan is expected to start in May 2021 and includes remaining healthcare workers and essential workers (Public Health is working on the criteria for essential workers who will be included). As more vaccine becomes available more groups will be added based on priority.

### Phase 3

The third phase of Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan is expected to start in summer 2021 and includes the broader community, including anyone who was eligible and did not get the vaccine in phase 1 or 2.

[www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus](http://www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus)

Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia

Fast.  
Easy.  
Secure.



Online COVID-19 test booking is now available for all Nova Scotians.

## RURAL NEWS AND VIEWS

### District 6 News

In these difficult times, it is important we celebrate good news. I was pleased to present 90th birthday certificates recently to two District 6 residents, Dorothy Fraser of Green Hill and Ella Ogden of Sylvester. Congratulations to both women who still live in their own homes and function well. Ratepayers meetings were not allowed to be held in 2020, continuing until this pandemic is over. If there are non-profit groups in District 6 who have a project that needs funding, contact me, and I will bring it forward to Council. Larger projects can be eligible for council grants, while smaller-scale projects are better suited for municipal service grants.



Municipal services grants are available any time of the year if there are still funds in our district account. In District 6, we have an active group in Salem to rejuvenate the old ballfield into a multipurpose recreation area for all ages. A small committee in Green Hill has completed a big project with the construction of a pavilion. This will greatly enhance groups wanting to gather on top of the hill for special occasions or just to get-togethers. Council is working towards regaining ownership of the old ballfield in Sylvester.

It would be great if there were interest in doing something like what is being started in Salem. If a small group is interested, please contact our recreation department for information. It could serve the whole area of Loch Broom, Sylvester, and parts of Durham and Green Hill. Congratulations to the West River Fire Department's new Chief DJ Worth and Deputy Chief Mike Parker. Thanks to outgoing Chief Jason Pitts for your service over the past years.

*Robert Parker  
Councillor for District 6*

### District 9 News

2020 was a long and challenging year. Hopefully, with the COVID-19 vaccine now being administered in Nova Scotia, we are headed towards safer times. We must continue to practice health safety measures and look out for one another during these tough times. Like many other local business and community organizations, our Linacy Fire Department, Ladies Auxiliary, and Hillside Hall have lost many fundraising opportunities because of COVID-19. These fundraisers are important as they raised funds for equipment, training, renovations, and activity/educational programs. I encourage everyone if you can contribute to our community organizations.



I am pleased to say that a new guardrail was placed along the Little Egypt Road, and repairs to the Linacy/Pine Tree Road have begun. The citizens of District 9 brought forth concerns regarding sections of road and worked together as a community along with our MLAs to have the roads repaired.

The Linacy Fire Department had a changing of the guard. Bob MacLean has been a member of the department for 55 years as a firefighter and served as president, and Don Sutherland, who has been its treasurer for ten years, recently retired. I was honoured to present these men with plaques of recognition on behalf of the Municipality of Pictou County. Linacy Fire's Department new executive include: Chief Bruce Young, Deputy Chief Mark MacDonald, President Dwaine MacDonald, Vice President Nathan King, and Treasurer Karen MacDonald. District 9 thanks all those who served.

I wish to thank the residents of District 9 for their continued support. It remains a privilege to work for you to solve our issues.

*Peter Boyles  
Councillor for District 9*



## Water and Tax Billing

Property tax bills are mailed in April (due in June) and August (due in October). Water bills are invoiced quarterly in January, April, July and October. Please ensure you have supplied the Municipality of Pictou County with your correct mailing address, including your P.O Box # (if you have one) to deter delayed payments and notices.

**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. Social distancing restrictions are in place and masks must be worn inside the building.

## Deadlines to Remember

**Municipal Grant Applications** for the 2021/22 fiscal period are now available. Funding awarded under this policy is intended for the non-profit and charitable organizations that provide community-based programs and services that replace, supplement, or complement a municipal mandate and provide benefits to one or more Council district or the entire municipality. **Applications must be returned no later than February 26, 2021.** Interested applicants may obtain a copy of the municipality's municipal grants program policy and application form from our website at [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca).

**Low Income Assistance:** Residents in the Municipality of Pictou who earned a total income of less than \$25,000 in 2020 are eligible for a tax exemption. Details on the low-income tax exemptions with respect to taxable property in the Municipality of Pictou County are provided below. The application form can be downloaded on our website at [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca) or they can be picked up at the administration building: **Deadline March 31, 2021.**



Visit [www.pvsc.ca](http://www.pvsc.ca) or call 1-800-380-7775  
for more information

## Hillside Community Society Update

Over the last several months, Hillside Community Hall hosted a craft fair, community meeting, and a yard sale in keeping with the safety precautions for COVID -19. Unfortunately, many of our activities were cancelled due to COVID- 19, which caused us to lose out on fundraising money. However, we are still holding our monthly 50/50 draw. Your support is much appreciated. The draw is videoed live and shown on our Facebook site.

At this time, the community hall may be available for rentals depending upon the event's size and if all the social distancing protocols can be followed. Please contact the hall by phone or email for possible booking and COVID safety information.

Hillside Community Society's monthly meetings are presently cancelled, and the society discusses the hall issues by phone. When the regular meetings can return, they are open to everyone. Currently, the society is looking into ways to apply for grants to make accessibility-related improvements to the hall. Visit us on Facebook at "Hillside Community Hall" for upcoming events and notices or contact Sadie Boyles at 902-755-3938 or email - [sadie.boyles@gmail.com](mailto:sadie.boyles@gmail.com).



**There is lots of things to do when you join a fire department. Some people put out fires, some direct traffic, others drive the trucks, just to name a few. Whether you are 16 or 60, volunteer fire departments always have an opening for those looking to give back to their communities. Contact your local fire department to find out more about the role you can play.**

## Recreation Grants Available

Grant allocation to various volunteer community groups throughout the county is an important part of the responsibility of the municipal recreation department. This, along with liaising with volunteers to connect them with various funders at the local, provincial, and federal level is a valuable resource available from the recreation department. Information is available recreation grants can be found on our website at [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca)



In addition, Kidsport application deadlines are out for 2021. Apply for up to \$300 in funding to offset your child's registration and/or equipment fees:  
[www.kidsportcanada.ca](http://www.kidsportcanada.ca).



Jumpstart funding is also available at [www.jumpstart.canadiantire.ca](http://www.jumpstart.canadiantire.ca).

More information on this funding or municipal grants can be obtained by contacting  
Cindy Fraser  
Recreation Co-ordinator  
902-485-8528 or 902-752-1530  
[cindy.fraser@munpict.ca](mailto:cindy.fraser@munpict.ca).



## Days of Shade but Rays of Light on the Horizon



Nova Scotia and the world are now more than ten months into this pandemic. More than two million have died, and over 100 million have been infected. Too many have lost loved ones or their health. We are in the shade.

Many neighbouring provinces are suffering through a surge of infections and deaths as the predicted 'second wave' wreaks havoc.

In the United States, its cumulative deaths have surpassed 400,000, with many more expected in the coming weeks. Most certainly, days, weeks, and even months of shade.

Pictou County and most of Nova Scotia have low rates of infection. Scientists have worked at a record pace to create effective vaccines.

Some media are doing a great job of creating fear by focusing on new variants.

As we develop more and different types of vaccines, I am confident that we will have several vaccines that can handle any variant - another ray of light.

There will be frustrations, as shown by the recent delay in the delivery of the Pfizer vaccines.

However, we now have the greatest capacity to create, distribute and deliver medications of any time in history. A significant ray of light!

So, what are we to do? More of the same, it seems,

and with patience. Limiting our social interactions,

good hygiene, wearing our masks and social distancing.

I call upon our Public Health authorities, who have done a fantastic job, to share more of their plans. This will create another ray of light and boost our collective mental health. Thank you to all our frontline workers, paramedics, truckers, grocery store workers, and every individual who has contributed in ways great and small. Look eastward; there is light on the horizon.

*David Parker  
Councillor for District 7*

## WHO DO YOU CALL?

**TIR OPERATIONS CONTACT CENTRE:** Since most roads are provincially owned, one avenue of contact is through your local MLA's office, but you can also contact the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal's Operations Contact Centre, which is open 24 hours, seven days a week. **The Operations Contact Centre can be reached locally at 902-755-7060 or toll-free at 1-844-696-7737. Emails can be sent to [tir-occ@novascotia.ca](mailto:tir-occ@novascotia.ca).**

**MOPC PUBLIC WORKS:** If emergency assistance is required in rural Pictou County for issues regarding water, wastewater, or municipal roads, please call: 902-301-1825.

**STREETLIGHTS:** If you have a streetlight out in your area please call 902-485-1201 or email, [outages@munpict.ca](mailto:outages@munpict.ca)

## There's an app for that!

Download our mobile app  
'Pictou County Solid Waste'



See your  
waste collection  
schedule



Receive  
reminders about  
your collection day



Learn if  
materials can  
be recycled



Don't have a mobile device? Visit [www.pcwastemgmt.com](http://www.pcwastemgmt.com). You can also sign up for reminders by email or phone call. Search for an item to learn if it can be recycled with the 'Waste Wizard'.

Questions? Call us (902) 396-1495



### African Heritage Month



February is African Heritage Month, and the Municipality of Pictou County is honouring this special month by flying the Pan-African flag. Here, Warden Robert Parker, left, and Deputy Warden Wayne Murray, proudly display the flag that will be flown in front of its administration building.

### Service Recognition



The Linacy Fire Department has a changing of the guard. Bob MacLean left, who has been a member of the department for 55 years as a firefighter and has taken on the role of president, and Don Sutherland, who has been its treasurer for 10 years, recently retired. MOPC District 9 Coun. Peter Boyles recently presented the men with plaques of recognition for their many years of service. "To see people put in the service that Bob and Don did to keep the department going regarding its finances, training, and recruitment, is something special," said Coun. Boyles. The Linacy Fire Department has 55 active members and welcomes new volunteers.

### District 4 News

I am excited to fully invest myself in my new role as councillor and to work hard.



Thank you to all the residents who are willing to put their trust in me to represent them on Council and to all the hard-working volunteers who offer their time in District 4.

Regarding the proposed Toney River dredge site, I encourage anyone who has a concern or opinion to forward it to Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada as well as Central Nova MP Sean Fraser. Their emails are [min@dfo-mpo-gc.ca](mailto:min@dfo-mpo-gc.ca) or [sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca](mailto:sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca).

River John Fire Department's new Chief John MacLellan replaces former Chief David Brown who recently retired from the chief's position.



*Chief John MacLellan*

Former Chief Brown is a volunteer with the department for 42 years and served as its chief for 25 years. Thank you to former Chief Brown for his commitment to the fire department and the community and we welcome Chief MacLellan great success in his new role.

*Sincerely,  
Mary Elliott  
Councillor for District 4*



### Nominate a Volunteer of the Year

April 18-24 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 others' benefit. Their efforts help support many initiatives, services, events, and programs and sustain us during crisis times. Suppose you know an outstanding volunteer in your community who has made a significant contribution to residents of the Municipality of the County of Pictou. In that case, we encourage you to submit a nomination form detailing their efforts. The municipality will select one nominee for official recognition at the provincial volunteer award ceremony. Nomination forms can be downloaded at [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca) and received by the MOPC on or before 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 12, 2021. They can be mailed in, dropped off at the MOPC administration building or emailed to [clare.steele@munpict.ca](mailto:clare.steele@munpict.ca).

### Free Online Service for Local Producers



Our Local Producers Guide is up and running. Check out the link on our website at [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca) and find contact information for local producers. We are continuing to accept information from producers free of charge, so if you are interested in having your name added to the link, please contact [sueann.musick@munpict.ca](mailto:sueann.musick@munpict.ca).



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Angie Larkin-Turner is a regular contributor of local photos to our website and newsletter. We love posting them and would love to see yours as well. Send them along through our Facebook Page or to [sueann.musick@munpict.ca](mailto:sueann.musick@munpict.ca).

### MOPC Equipment Loan Program includes Snowshoes and Cross-Country Skis



We have several sets of snowshoes and cross-country skis available for loan at no cost. Contact Clare Steele in our recreation department at 902-485-2247 or email [clare.steele@munpict.ca](mailto:clare.steele@munpict.ca) to book an appointment to take them out.





# HIGH-SPEED INTERNET UPDATE

We are excited to announce that we have launched a website devoted to our high-speed internet project. [ruralnet.munpict.ca](http://ruralnet.munpict.ca) is your one-stop-shop for background information and updates on our high-speed internet project. It features maps, a photo and video gallery, as well as a link to ROCK Networks' demand aggregation tool, which will help us collect valuable information to assist with the build of our network.

The demand aggregation platform gathers information, including speed tests and surveys, as well as sign-ups that could aid with government funding submissions. You can visit [rocknetworks.servicezones.net/pictou](http://rocknetworks.servicezones.net/pictou) (please note this is a third-party site) to enter your address and complete the survey. All information gathered follows privacy guidelines and will only be used for the purpose of the rural internet project. For those with residences in the area designated as Ring 8, you have the option to preselect the type of package you would like to receive; there is no commitment required.

For many of those in the community that have signed up via email to receive more information on the rural internet project, we ask you to visit [ruralnet.munpict.ca](http://ruralnet.munpict.ca) for all future updates. In the meantime, you would have received an email from MOPC requesting you visit the ROCK Networks Platform. We ask that you visit this platform, provide your address and follow the steps.