

# *Rural News and Views*

**Newsletter**



**Winter 2024**

**Meet Mill Brook's award-winning horses, P. 3**



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# Warden's Winter Message

To all residents of rural Pictou County, I sincerely hope you are all wintering well through what has been mostly a snowless winter with lots of windstorms.



This can be a difficult time of year for many on both our physical and mental health. The short days (There is hope, they're getting longer) can cause many

to get the blues (Seasonal Affective Disorder). Along with many other mental health conditions. The winter season can seem very long, especially as we gracefully age and for those who live alone.

Our Council recognizes this and one of the top priorities is to help our communities to be more active and provide opportunities for our residents to get out of their homes and socialize. Great for our mental health!

This year our Council started a new program called the Community Connectivity Event Fund. Each Councillor has \$1,500 to use in their district to assist community groups host events to encourage folks to get out and have a good time and meet some old friends and new ones. If new people have moved into your community, please make sure that you invite them along.

Our Recreation Dept. is doing a superb job with their new initiative "Go Play." They have a variety of equipment ready to loan out at no cost to allow families and individuals to try out and participate in outdoor activities without having to spend a lot of dollars before you even know if you enjoy them. If you're able and enjoy the outdoors, our Municipality is ready to help.

One of the best ways to beat the winter blues is to read the seed catalogues when they arrive or on the computer. Just sit back and dream and you'll soon forget that it is -20C outside.

Always remember how lucky we are to live in a peaceful country with a roof over our head, warm and comfortable. Many are not so fortunate. Please help them whenever you can!

--Warden Robert Parker

# Fraser's Country Clydesdales impress at RAWF

Council for the Municipality of Pictou County took some time at their Jan. 8, 2024 Council meeting to congratulate Fraser's Country Clydesdales on an exceptional performance at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November 2023.

Fraser's Country Clydesdales, which is owned by Leonard and Donna Fraser of Mill Brook, Pictou County was the No. 1 Clydesdale hitch throughout the competition and achieved first-place finishes in the following categories:

- Ladies Cart, Clydesdales
- Ladies Cart, All Breeds
- Men's Cart, Clydesdales
- Team Class, Clydesdales
- Unicorn Class, Clydesdales
- 4 Horse Hitch, Clydesdales
- 6 Horse Hitch, Clydesdales
- Classic Cart, All Breeds
- 1st Tack Room Competition - overall horse exhibitors.

"The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the pinnacle of competitions for the agricultural community and the team from Fraser's Country Clydesdales showed they have what it takes to compete with the best and win," Warden Robert Parker stated. "Our community is proud of their accomplishments."

Leonard Fraser, who recalls working with horses with his grandfather in the hayfield, said the success is the result of many years of work by their dedicated team.

"An animal is just like an athlete. You have to work them to build their muscles and build their lung capacity," he explained.



From left are Clr. David Parker, Warden Robert Parker, Keigan MacDonald, Donna Fraser, Leonard Fraser and Clr. Chester Dewar.

"If you treat the animal right, the animal is going to look after you."

He said they had hauled the horses to Ontario in July 2023 and after some final training, they began showing the Clydesdales at various events. The Frasers and their team were pleased with how well the horses were working together show after show to take top honours.

That success continued at the Royal.

"We couldn't believe it ourselves," Leonard said quipping: "If we had paid the judges, we couldn't have done any better."

With their recent success, Fraser's Country Clydesdales qualified to compete at the North American Championships in Indiana in September 2024.

## 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

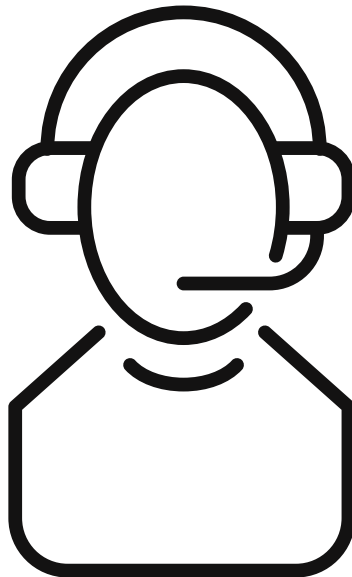
# Dispatch change notice

We would like to inform you that most of the counties' fire services have recently transitioned to a new dispatch provider. The new provider is Valley Communications, located at 217 Belcher Street, Kentville, Nova Scotia B4N 1E2, Canada.

If you have alarm monitoring on your properties or businesses within any of the fire department districts listed below, we kindly request you to contact your alarm monitoring company at your earliest convenience to inform them of this change and ensure there are no delays in receiving a timely response from your local fire station.

## Effected fire department coverage area:

- Abercrombie Fire Department
- Linacy Fire Department
- Alma Fire Department
- Little Harbour Fire Department
- Barney's River Fire Department
- Merigomish Fire Department
- Blue Mountain Fire Department
- Pictou Fire Department
- Caribou Fire Department
- Pictou Landing Fire Department
- East River Valley Fire Department
- Plymouth Fire Department
- Eureka Fire Department
- River John Fire Department
- Scotsburn Fire Department
- Trenton Fire Department
- Thorburn Fire Department
- Westville Fire Department
- West River Fire Department
- Stellarton Fire Department
- Pictou Island Fire Department



Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this change, please feel free to contact Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services with the Municipality of Pictou County. You can contact Evan at [Evan.Hale@municipict.ca](mailto:Evan.Hale@municipict.ca) or by phone at 902-485-2242.

## MOPC COUNCIL

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**MOPC WEBSITE:**  
**[WWW.MUNPICT.CA](http://WWW.MUNPICT.CA)**

# Keep safety in mind with lithium-ion batteries

There is an emerging trend of house fires being caused by Lithium-Ion batteries. The average modern home contains multiple devices which are powered by Lithium-Ion batteries. Devices such as cell phone, e-bikes, laptops, cordless power tools, vapes/e-cigarettes, toys, and cars are all powered by these types of cells.

The number of Lithium-Ion battery fires is drastically increasing as more household appliances and devices use these types of batteries.

These types of batteries contain large amounts of power in a relatively small cell. They are constructed with two types of materials that if damaged and come in contact with each other cause a violent reaction. These violent reactions can result in fires or explosions. For example, an e-bike, if charged in an enclosed room can result in an explosion significant enough to cause structural damage to a home.

## Prevention:

If used properly these types of batteries have a very low risk of failure. Several safety precautions can reduce the risk of a Lithium-Ion battery Fire.

Do not attempt to extinguish a Lithium-Ion battery fire. Immediately evacuate and call 911.

## Safety Tips:

- Only purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory (e.g. ULC, CSA).
- Always follow manufacturer instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device. Do not tamper with the battery packs.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on the couch. This can cause the battery to overheat.



- Do not keep charging the device after it is fully charged.
- Larger battery packs should be charged in a well ventilated area or preferably outside.
- Store batteries away from any thing combustible.
- Do not use batteries that appear to be damaged.

## Signs a battery is failing:

- Battery has changed shape. (e.g. bulging)
- Change in colour
- Batteries feel excessively hot
- Odour
- Leaking
- Making noise

## What can cause a battery to fail:

- Over charging
- Tampering with battery
- Physical damage
- Using the incorrect charger

## How to dispose:

Do not dispose of Lithium-Ion batteries in the trash. (Batteries can be unstable for several days after a failure) Take them to an approved recycling centre.

(e.g. Pictou County Solid Waste, Any Town or Municipal Office in Pictou County)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Fire Official at 902-485-2251.

# Skating opportunities in Pictou County

## Skating Schedule

**Ivor MacDonald Memorial Arena  
(Thorburn, NS)  
Saturdays - 4:00-5:00pm - Open**

**Hector Arena (Pictou, NS)  
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
Thursdays - 1:30-2:45pm - Adult  
Tuesdays, Thursdays - 10:00-11:20am -  
Adult & Tot  
Fridays - 2:45-4:45pm - Open  
Sundays - 9:00-10:40am - Open**

**Pictou County Wellness Centre (Pictou  
County, NS)  
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
Thursdays, Fridays - 10:00-11:00am -  
Parent & Tot  
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
Thursdays, Fridays - 11:30am-3:30pm -  
Adult**

**Trenton Minor Sports Community Centre  
(Trenton, NS)  
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays - 12:00-  
1:30pm - Adult  
Fridays - 3:00-4:00pm - After-School**

**Westville Minor Sports Centre (Westville,  
NS)  
Sundays - 5:15-6:15pm - Open**



Please be aware that these schedules are subject to change, and adjustments may be made depending on the situation, such as tournaments or special events.

We recommend regularly checking the Rink/Town Facebook Pages or contacting the rink in advance to confirm the availability of ice time.

If you have any questions or need specific information about these ice times, please don't hesitate to reach out to the rink directly.

It's important to note that CSA approved protective helmets are mandatory for all individuals whenever they are on skates on the ice.

Need Skates?

Pictou Recreation and Parks and Trenton Parks and Recreation, offer skates and protective helmets for loan at their respected facility.

Please reach out to the respective municipal departments to coordinate the acquisition of necessary equipment.

# Property values rise in Nova Scotia

In January property owners throughout Nova Scotia received their 2024 Property Assessment Notices which reflect a market value as of January 1, 2023.

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

2024 assessments reflect steady upward market activity across the province,” says Dave Penny, PVSC’s Director of Assessment. “While Halifax continued to have market growth, many rural regions also showed climbing market trends.”

The total value of the 2024 Assessment Roll is \$173.6 billion.

“Commercially, business and industrial parks continue to see significant market growth,” adds Penny.

2024 property assessments are based on sales and financial data and reflect a market value as of January 1, 2023, and the physical state of properties as of December 1, 2023, including new construction, renovations, demolitions, and impacts from natural disasters.

This year's rate for the provincial government’s Capped Assessment Program (CAP) is 3.2 percent. The CAP rate reflects the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Nova Scotia as confirmed by the Province.

The CAP limits the annual increase in taxable assessment for eligible residential properties to no more than the CPI rate for the year. About 68 per cent of residential assessments, 415,576 property accounts, qualify for CAP for 2024.

## Municipality of Pictou County 2024 Property Values

<b>Residential</b>	<b>\$2,964,317,900</b>
<b>Capped Residential</b>	<b>\$2,200,464,500</b>
<b>Commercial</b>	<b>\$386,379,500</b>
<b>Total Assessed</b>	<b>\$3,350,697,400</b>

## About the PVSC

Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) is an independent, municipally funded, not-for-profit organization that provides property assessment services and information to Nova Scotia’s municipalities and property owners.

PVSC is governed by a Board of Directors and led by CEO Kathy Gillis. PVSC’s Board includes elected municipal officials, members with municipal experience, independent members, and the CEO of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM).

PVSC operates in accordance with the Nova Scotia Assessment Act and internationally accepted standards for mass appraisal from the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO).



Property Valuation Services Corporation

**Own property  
in Nova Scotia?**

View your 2024 property assessment  
at [www.pvsc.ca](http://www.pvsc.ca)

1-800-380-7775 | [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca)

# Starlink vs. Fibre

Some have questioned why the MOPC is pursuing fibre when options like Starlink are available. It's a reasonable question. Here at the MOPC we view Starlink as a great option for some residents.

The fact of the matter is we have very remote locations in our county and there are some people that may find Starlink is best for them. But as a blanket approach, it is not in the best long-term interests of our residents. Here's why

## FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE

Nova Scotians are well aware of how giving control to just one or a handful of companies plays out. Consumers pay as companies profit.

Our fibre network is different. It is open-access meaning that companies pay to use our infrastructure. Because multiple companies are using our network, there is built-in competition which keeps the cost lower for residents.

Right now if you want Starlink in Nova Scotia, you'll be paying \$140 a month plus tax. Customers on our fibre network are paying as little as \$34.99 a month.

In addition to the immediate savings residents will see, once the cost of the project is repaid in approximately 20 years, the network will actually generate revenue for the MOPC, which will lessen the burden on taxpayers for years to come. This is an asset that doesn't disappear as soon as you unsubscribe.

## TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE

There are also some significant technological advantages to fibre vs. Starlink. Fibre is faster and more consistent in speed.



Our fibre network provides speeds of up to 1 Gbps upload and download. Starlink advertises download speeds of 25 Mbps to 250 Mbps.

## A BLENDED APPROACH

At the MOPC we believe Elon Musk summed up the situation best in a 2021 interview with Mobile World Live.

“You can think of Starlink as filling in the gaps between 5G and fiber, and really getting into parts of the world that are hardest to reach.”

Here in the MOPC we will be able to reach the majority of people with either our fibre network or wireless, but given our geography, 100 percent coverage simply isn't possible.

That's why we encourage residents we aren't able to service to consider options such as Starlink and assistance in installing it available through Build Nova Scotia.

In the end it doesn't come down to wireless OR fibre, or wireless OR Starlink. We believe our residents should have options. Our network delivers that.



## INTERNET UPDATE

# FirstHome network continues to grow

The number of residents connected to the Municipality of Pictou County's wireless network has been steadily growing.

Letters were recently sent to hundreds of eligible households that have been identified as serviceable addresses and more will be notified in the coming weeks.

Those residents are invited to get in touch with MOPC FirstHome staff to sign up for wireless internet. The 25/5 plan is \$49.99 per month (HST extra).

The MOPC has received positive feedback from those who have connected to the service already.

Work is currently underway to complete the Blue Mountain wireless tower which will further extend the network.

On the high-speed fibre side, steady progress has been made in recent months. The service is now available to residents in Lyons Brook, Durham, Mt. Thom, Central West River, Green Hill, Alma, Salt Springs, Loch Broom Loop and along the Sunrise Trail from the Pictou Rotary to Toney River.

Pre-sales will soon be offered for residents from Alma to the New Glasgow border, Graham Lane, Stewart Road, Swamp Road, Sylvester, Hillcrest Trailer Park and Mt. William. Fibre offers the fastest internet with speeds up to 1 Gb available.

For more information call 1-833-727-2256, email [sales@mopcfirsthome.net](mailto:sales@mopcfirsthome.net) or stop by the FirstHome Office at the second floor of the MOPC Administration Building at 46 Municipal Drive in Pictou.



Representatives of the MOPC FirstHome team were happy to be able to share some information with residents at a recent Lunch and Learn at the Lismore Community Hall. Ian Bos, Scott Hewey and Rhiannon McNair shared the most recent updates and what residents can expect in the future.



Alex Kampa-Plouffe is pictured here helping a resident sign up for internet using our customer service kiosk located at the MOPC Administrative Building at 46 Municipal Drive in Pictou.

## District 9 news

Well we're moving into February, it's been cold, but not much snow. We as a council have been inquiring on why there are so many power outages and why the power is out so long.

I had the privilege of presenting Eldon MacDonald from the Linacy Fire department with a certificate from the MOPC, on his 59 years with the department.



I would like to thank the Linacy Fire Department and the ladies for their commitments to Districts 9. Our health workers and emergency response personnel are always on the job for our safety.

I hope 2024 is a good year for everyone. I can be contacted at anytime to address any concerns you may have. Stay warm and stay safe.

-- Peter Boyles, District 9 Councillor

### New employee welcomed

The MOPC was pleased to welcome Vicky Walker to our team last fall. Vicky works in our Finance Department as a Tax Admin Clerk and looks forward to working with residents who stop by the office.



### 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**

## What We Heard Report



What We Heard Report

December 2023



The Imagine MOPC What We Heard Report is now available online! This report provides a summary of the formative engagement phase for Imagine MOPC and encompasses "What We Heard" from the public throughout the process.

Take a look and see what the community had to say about their vision for the future of the Municipality of Pictou County!

To view the report please visit [www.imaginemopc/documents](http://www.imaginemopc/documents)

# Braeshore youth recognized for golf skills

Council for the Municipality of Pictou County took some time at its Oct. 3 Council Meeting to honour a rising star from Braeshore, Pictou County – Borden Nicholson.

Ten-year-old Borden started playing golf during the pandemic with his parents Rachelle and Andrew and they quickly realized he had a natural talent. This year he competed in the Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour and excelled.

He finished in first place in the Boys nine and ten age group with a stroke average of 79.14.

As Atlantic Champion, Borden earned an invite to the MJT Mini Tour National Championship in Tsawwassen Springs, BC.

He represented Pictou County well proving he has what it takes to compete against the best in the country. He also achieved closest to the hole for his age group in the tournament.



Presenting the certificate of recognition are Warden Robert Parker and Councillor Darla MacKeil.

## District 7 Clr. offers take on Nova Scotia Power relationship

As most of us are aware Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) are a privately owned profit driven regulated utility that has a near monopoly on the generation, transmission and distribution of electrical energy within our province. Although we all like to grumble about the cost, compared to the cost of other forms of energy it seems justifiable. As I write this in a warm, well lit home with appliances that work and devices charged, I love them!

However, as I recall the Fiona Fiasco of Sept.-Oct. of 2022 where most of rural Pictonians went one to two weeks plus without power and the several significant interruptions of power during more recent wind events - I hate them! Certainly our climate has changed with more frequent and more severe storm events.

I have been and remain a (sometimes harsh) critic of the reliability of the NSPI power grid.

We all have our opinions about brush cutting and grid maintenance issues. We have a vested interest in the reliability of the grid. Now, with the ongoing construction of the MOPC fibre network on the very poles that NSPI owns we have a further interest in grid reliability. So whether we love them or hate them is a moot point. We want and need the same things.



That being a stronger, more reliable grid to deliver both electrical energy and fibre internet to our communities. We need to sit down together and have an adult conversation. We need to discuss how we can work together for our mutual benefit and at reasonable cost. Let's not fall into the love-hate trap!

-- District 7 Councillor David Parker

# Save money and help the environment

## Switch MOPC offers financing for efficiency upgrades

The Municipality of Pictou County's Switch Program now offers financing for all types of home energy upgrades!

Eligible projects include heat pumps, insulation, energy efficient windows and doors, electric water heaters and much more. If you are uncertain if your desired upgrade is eligible, please contact us at +1 (902) 334-4227 or [info@switchmopc.ca](mailto:info@switchmopc.ca).

### Key Program Features

- **Energy Concierge:** Program participants will have access to an Energy Concierge (Zoë). Zoë will guide you every step of the way through your energy retrofit, answering any questions, and ensuring the work is completed to your satisfaction. The job of an Energy Concierge is to make the complicated energy retrofit process easy.
- **Financing:** The Switch MOPC Program will pay your contractor upfront for your energy retrofit, with homeowners paying back the program with small monthly payments over 10 years. Program financing was designed to have your energy savings exceed your monthly payments, saving you money until your project is paid off. To ensure optimal energy and financial savings Zoë will help you understand your Home Energy Assessment, allowing you to receive maximum savings on any budget. (for more details on financing options please contact the program)
- **Rebate Assistance:** Zoë will ensure that you receive all available rebates and incentives for your project.
- **Quote Reviewal:** Zoë will flag any contractor quotes that seem abnormally high to ensure homeowners get a fair price.
- **Arranging Home Energy Assessments:** Zoë will book your pre and post Home Energy Assessments. Home Energy Assessments are required to receive federal and provincial rebates.
- **Contractor Assistance:** Zoë will provide a list of trustworthy, rebate eligible contractors.



The Switch MOPC Program is here to be your support and advocate through the entire process of completing a home energy upgrade.

We understand that completing these upgrades can be complicated, that's why we are here to make it easy.

If you're interested in learning more about the program, please contact Zoë at (902) 334-4227 & [info@switchmopc.ca](mailto:info@switchmopc.ca) or check out the program website [www.switchmopc.ca](http://www.switchmopc.ca).

We're eager to assist you in any way that we can!



# Former East Pictou School demolished



The bulk of the demolition work at the former East Pictou School has been completed in recent months.

The East Pictou school opened in 1952 and was used for a high school and middle school for decades before closing in 2020.

At the conclusion of its use, school ownership was transferred to the Municipality in accordance with the provincial-municipal services agreement.

The MOPC attempted to divest the property in accordance with its standard procedures, but that process resulted in no sale of the property.

Budget Environmental was awarded the tender for the project to demolish the former school. The company was the lowest bidder at \$1.58 million dollars.

There are no current plans for the land, which neighbours Frank H. Academy.



The MOPC gave residents the chance to have a piece of the former East Pictou School by saving some bricks during the demolition process. These bricks were then given to residents in exchange for donations to the food bank or Viola's Place Homeless Shelter.

The Blue Eagles proved their generosity, by donating \$450 plus a large amount of groceries for these two worthy organizations.

Thanks to everyone who picked up a brick and donated.

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE  
COUNTY OF PICTOU  
CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS**



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

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

Municipal Audit Committee (2 position)  
2-year term, ending March 2026

Police Advisory Board (1 position)  
2-year term, ending March 2026

Planning Advisory Committee (1 position)  
2-year term, expiring March 2026

Riverton Guest Home Corporation Board of Directors  
(1 position)  
2-year term, beginning March 2026

Climate Change Advisory (5 positions)  
2-year term ending March 2026

Fences Arbitration Committee (1 Position)  
2-year term ending March 2026

Accessibility Committee (4 Positions)  
2-year term ending March 2026

Water Source Protection – Pictou (1 Position)  
2-year term ending March 2026

For further details on the positions available visit [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca). To be considered eligible for any of these committees, applicants must be a resident of the Municipality and have lived there 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.

The deadline to apply is February 12, 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](mailto:sueann.musick@munpict.ca).

April 14th to 20th 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 contributed significantly to residents of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, we encourage you to submit a nomination form detailing their efforts. The Municipality will select one nominee for official recognition.

This year, we have also added a second category, Youth Volunteer of the Year. Details can be found on our website, [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca).

Nomination forms can be found on our website, [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca), under the Application and Grants Form or by scanning the QR code below and should be addressed to the undersigned and received on or before 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024.

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





On Nov. 18 the River John Fire Department held their annual awards banquet. District 4 Clr. Mary Elliott and Director of Emergency Services Evan Hale attended this event. Congratulations to all those who received awards and thank you to all those who serve their community. **Photos by Clr. Elliott**



Those entering Pictou County by the Sunrise Trail are being greeted by a new sign. The MOPC has installed a freshly designed welcome sign at the entrance to the county in Marshville. District 4 Clr. Mary Elliott advocated on behalf of her residents for the sign which replaces one that was damaged. Many people in her riding have been asking for a replacement for some time. Clr. Elliott is very happy to see the new sign now in place.



On Nov. 11, 2023, the lighting of Nick's (Falconer) tree took place in Toney River. The tree was covered in buoys to remember those who are not with us. This was the fourth year of this largely attended tree lighting in memory of Nick. Thank you Dwayne, Wayne, Catherine and Matt for bringing the community together. It certainly warms the heart to have this tree to celebrate our lost loved ones.



Mary Elliott, Councillor for District 4 presents Noble Grand Brian Emoff of Helping Hand Lodge #34, a certificate from the Municipality of Pictou County in recognition of our 145th Anniversary.

**Best wishes  
for 2024  
from  
Councillor  
Mary Elliott**



*Now that 2023 has ended, may 2024 be kind and bring good health and happiness to all. Should you require assistance, you can reach me by email at [mary.elliott@munpict.ca](mailto:mary.elliott@munpict.ca)*



**Municipality of the County  
of Pictou Municipal Grants  
Requests for Funding**

Municipal Grant Applications for the 2024/25 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 that replace, supplement, or complement a municipal mandate and benefit one or more Council districts or the entire Municipality.

Applications must be returned no later than Thursday, February 29th, to be assessed in preparation for the 2024/25 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 an application form at [www.munpict.ca](http://www.munpict.ca), under the tab Applications and Grant Forms.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**The Provincial Government owns most of the roads in rural Pictou County. If you have concerns about signage, snow removal or road conditions you can reach out to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal at 902-755-7060 or call toll free at 1-844-696-7737**



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



Application forms for a low-income exemption in the 2024/25 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](http://www.munpict.ca) under the Application and Grant Forms tab.

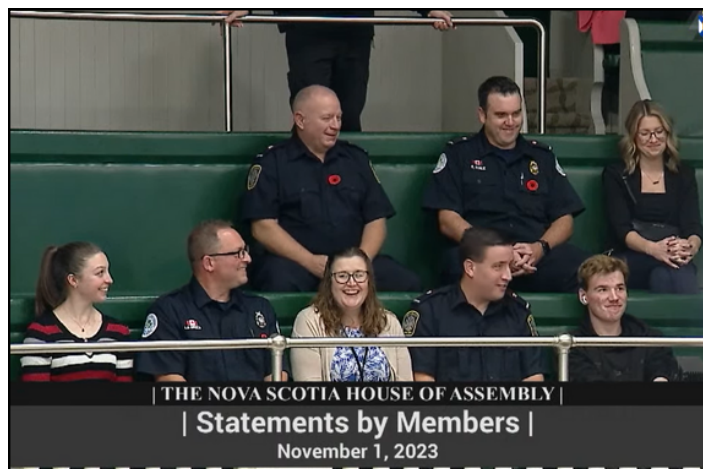
The exemption is available, upon application, to every person assessed with respect to taxable property in the Municipality of the County of Pictou who is a resident of the County and whose total income from all sources for 2023 was less than \$30,000.

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 2023 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 the applicant occupies 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, 2024.

Applications received after that date will not be considered.

## Special recognition



Several Pictou East First Responders received some recognition in the Nova Scotia Legislature on Nov. 1 for their efforts in time of crisis.

Premier Tim Houston recognized the following individuals:

- Kenny Dunn, Westville Fire Chief
- Joanne Cumminger, Treasurer of the Plymouth Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary
- Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services for the Municipality of Pictou County and Deputy Chief for the Alma Fire Department
- Megan Kenny, a Department of Natural Resources and Renewables Employee
- Jason LaGreca, Fire Inspector for the Municipality of Pictou County and volunteer with the Alma Fire Department
- Rod Livingstone, Fire Chief of the Plymouth Fire Department
- Wayne VanVeen, Volunteer Firefighter in Plymouth.

Hale was recognized for his efforts to assist residents following Hurricane Fiona. LaGreca was recognized for helping a vulnerable resident in the county.

"As all Nova Scotians are aware, for the past two years we have faced some devastating natural disasters across our province. We have had heroes across our province who have made a tremendous difference in the lives of neighbours and friends and strangers too," Premier Houston said.



# Scotsburn Recreation Club

“working together to build a stronger community”

A lot has been happening here at the club since post tropical storm Fiona and its aftermath devastated our hall. We lost our building, but now can refocus on the beautiful park that is under our care.

Volunteers have canvassed the Scotsburn area to see what the majority of the respondents would like to see done with the funds from the insurance on the building. Upgrades to many of the features of our park are needed and we are excited to be moving forward.

The Scotsburn Trailhead park is a 4.9 acre area comprised of a ballfield, a double tennis court, a paved shuffle board and a children’s play structure. There are two buildings for storage with one housing a canteen and the other housing outhouses. We also own a large parking area and green space. The park is used all year round by our community and beyond.

The beautiful flourishing Scotsburn Community Food Forest is heading into its fifth growing season. This initiative aims to contribute to long term food security through growing and sharing food in regenerative ways and raising awareness through education. In addition to offering free food to our community via the newly built share stand (a collaboration with the Scotsburn Elementary School), a variety of workshops will continue to be offered.

Last winter interested community members came together to create an outdoor skating rink in the park much to the delight of the community.

The rink is up and running again this winter despite some windy weather challenges.

The Fitzpatrick Mountain Trail, maintained by Cape 2 Cape, looks a bit different post Fiona, but is as busy as ever with hikers, snowshoeing and mountain biking.

The entrance to this trail system is located at the Scotsburn Trailhead Park with access to the Trans Canada Trail directly across the road. Such a wonderful combination of ways to be active in a beautiful environment.

The community we serve is important to us. We will continue to keep them top of mind as we move forward. During our last fundraiser, the board decided to donate our profit to the lunch program at the Scotsburn School.

Looking for fun ways to stay physically and mentally active this winter? Try a 100 hours outside sheet, snowshoeing, hiking, sledding, skating, skiing, build a snow fort, making a snow angel or snow man, borrowing a book from your local library, attending trivia, dancing in your kitchen or at a community event, adding food coloring and water to a spray bottle and decorating the snow, yoga at home or with a group, do a puzzle, count how many steps it takes to walk around your house, bake some goodies, start a snowball fight or invite friends and family to a chilly winter bonfire and serve up some hot chocolate.

What other ideas can you come up with?

# Municipal milestones recognized



The Municipality of Pictou County recently took time to recognize employee milestones. We would like to congratulate and thank the following employees for their ongoing dedication to their jobs at the MOPC. Troy Bonvie, 5 years; Andrew MacDonald, 5 years; Cindy Fraser, 30 years; Travis Spears, 5 years and Sueann Musick, 5 years. Missing from photos is Anne MacCarthy, 15 years.

## Pictou County Civic Sign Suppliers

Supplier	Civic Address	Area Served	Phone	Email
Alma Fire	80 Alma Loop, Alma	Alma Area	902-759-4479	<a href="mailto:nedrawilson@eastlink.ca">nedrawilson@eastlink.ca</a>
Auto Trim & Sign	669 Pine tree road, Thorburn, NS	Pictou County	902-922-2915	<a href="mailto:design@atdnortheast.ca">design@atdnortheast.ca</a>
Barney's River Fire	13317 Highway 104, Pictou County	Pictou County	902-754-8422	<a href="mailto:joemacd@eastlink.ca">joemacd@eastlink.ca</a>
Eastern Sign	125 North Foord Street, Stellarton	Pictou County	902-752-2722	<a href="mailto:info@easternsign.ca">info@easternsign.ca</a>
Eureka Fire	5222 Stellarton Trafalgar Road, Eureka	Pictou County	902-923-2394	<a href="mailto:cliffjardine@hotmail.com">cliffjardine@hotmail.com</a>
Little Harbour Fire	8328 Pictou Landing Road, Little Harbour	Little Harbour Area		<a href="mailto:firechief@lhfd.ca">firechief@lhfd.ca</a>
Plymouth Fire	4667 E River East Side Road, Plymouth	Plymouth Area	902-755-3229	<a href="mailto:mikemconway@eastlink.ca">mikemconway@eastlink.ca</a>
Sketch-It Design	268 Munroe Avenue Ext. New Glasgow	Pictou County	902-754-7446	<a href="mailto:sketchitsd@outlook.com">sketchitsd@outlook.com</a>
Thorburn Fire	738 Marsh Road, Thorburn	Pictou County	902-922-3419	<a href="mailto:thorburnfiredept@gmail.com">thorburnfiredept@gmail.com</a>
Linacy Fire	6735 Highway 4, Linacy	Linacy Area	902-755-5595	<a href="mailto:dalepettipas@hotmail.com">dalepettipas@hotmail.com</a>



# 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](http://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](mailto:clare.steele@munpict.ca)