

A community guide to the place we call home

Welcome Home to Pictou County Nova Scotia



A woman with long, wavy red hair and blue eyes is holding a white rectangular sign in front of her face. She is wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt. The background is a large, light blue circle on a white background.

Are you new to the area,
relocating yourself, your family or
your business to Pictou County?

This guide takes a “live like a local” approach
to introducing all aspects of our community -
from community geography, to local lingo,
to where to find business supports -
we’ve got you covered!

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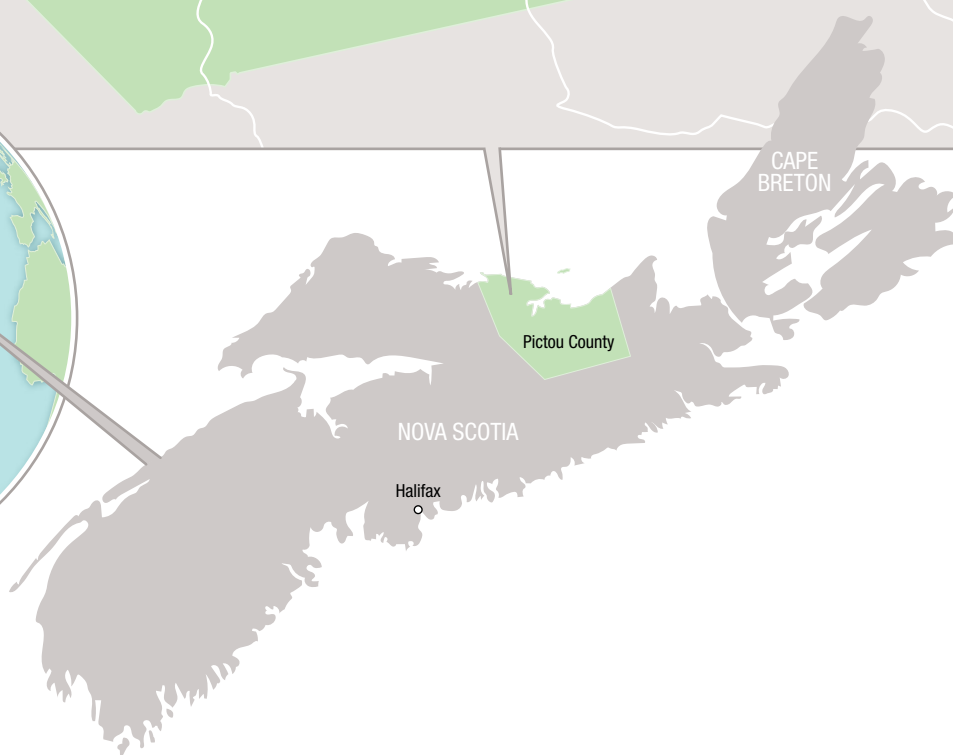
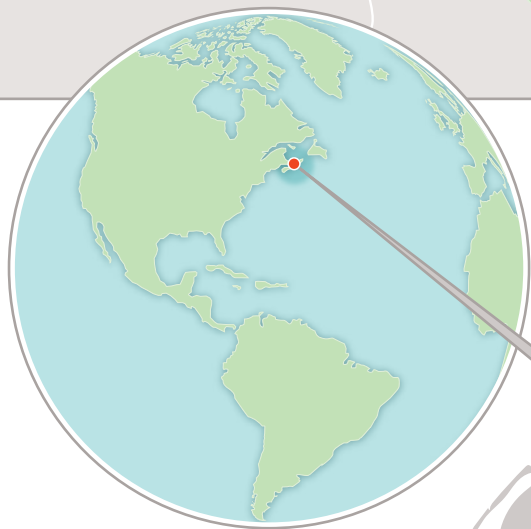
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ON THE COVER

Front: The young and young-at-heart all enjoy a dip in our waters. | Melmerby Beach, photo by Tourism Nova Scotia
Back: Photo by Brittany Currie and Aaron MacKay

This booklet was prepared in 2020. Please check information either online or in person, as we know things can change.

PICTOU COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA



FACTS

Land area of **2,846.28** square km

Total Population: **OVER 43,000**
(approximate, 2016)

PICTOU LANDING FIRST NATION and **6 MUNICIPAL UNITS**

MUNICIPALITY OF PICTOU COUNTY

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW

TOWN OF PICTOU

TOWN OF STELLARTON

TOWN OF TRENTON

TOWN OF WESTVILLE

BORDERS WITH:

Northumberland Strait to the north

Antigonish County to the east

Guysborough County to the south

Colchester County to the west

EMPLOYMENT LANDSCAPE:

Major areas of employment are in health care, manufacturing, professional services, tech services, property management, and primary industries that put Pictou County in a provincial, national and international spotlight. Read more on page 42.

COORDINATES 45.5°N 62.6°W

FEDERAL ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL NOVA

PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS:

Pictou Centre | Pictou East | Pictou West



DID YOU KNOW?

Pictou County has it's own tartan

STAY CONNECTED

Pictou Landing First Nation
and each municipal unit offers
unique information on housing,
taxes, services and more:

plfn.ca

county.pictou.ns.ca

newglasgow.ca

townofpictou.ca

stellarton.ca

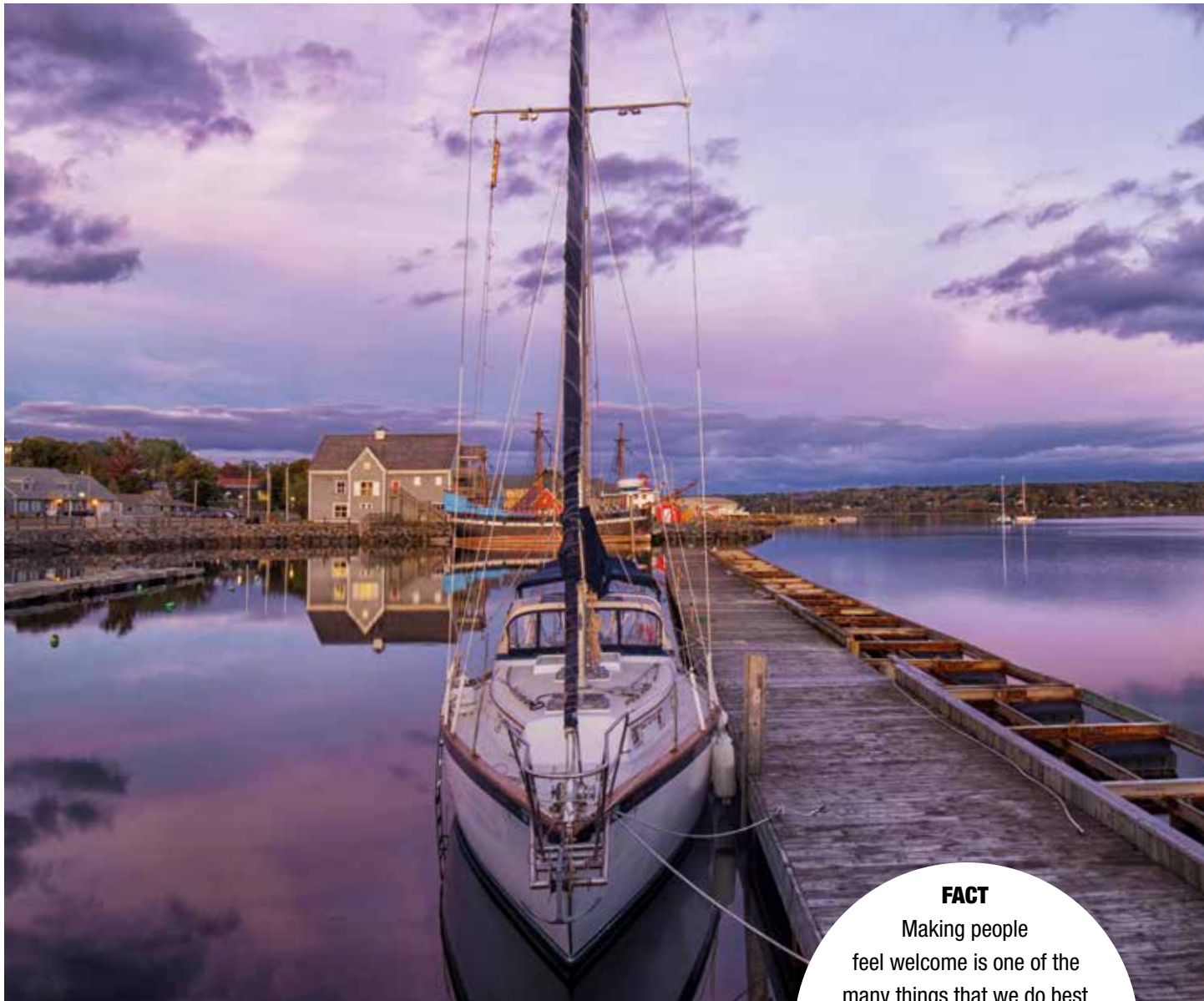
town.trenton.ns.ca

westville.ca



HECTOR HERITAGE QUAY | PHOTO: DR. GERRY FARRELL

LIFE IN PICTOU COUNTY



TOWN OF PICTOU | PHOTO: DR. GERRY FARRELL

FACT

Making people feel welcome is one of the many things that we do best

WELCOME HOME



Is it possible to feel at home in a place you have never lived? Absolutely, if that place is Pictou County.

Making people feel welcome is one of the many things that we do best. Perhaps it's our sense of place that sets our community apart. Maybe it's the deep connection to our history while celebrating our lives and stories. Maybe it's the energy in our creative and entrepreneurial spirit, our little quirks, or the way we take care of each other when we need it the most. These are the things that become part of the character of those who choose to live here and will be part of your experience as you settle in and truly grow to appreciate our culture.

We love our coffee and morning commutes. The longest lineups will be at your neighbourhood coffee shop. Otherwise, you can get across town or over the causeway within four or five songs on your playlist.

We love talking about hockey, politics and weather, not always in that order. We have excellent schools serving both sides of the county including the new primary-to-eight New Glasgow Academy and a new centre for educational excellence for Pictou Landing First Nation. Wellness of body and mind are nourished with many recreational and fitness outlets. The Pictou County Wellness Centre is home to many sporting and community events and where you'll find the YMCA of Pictou County. There are several hundred kilometres of trails to explore and some of the region's most beautiful beaches to enjoy in all seasons. If you prefer a darker night sky and more room to roam some of the best real estate can be found in our rural areas.

We love to be entertained. The deCoste Performing Arts Centre in the harbour town of Pictou and Glasgow Square Theatre alongside the East River in New Glasgow are celebrated venues attracting some of the best local and visiting performers traveling throughout the east coast. We know how to party. You can rock out all summer long at any of our weekend festivals that kick-off in late spring and continue well past the kids heading back to school. If you want to raise a glass while you celebrate, we can fill it with award-winning locally produced spirits, wine, and beer. You are soon to discover that you will never go hungry, and by the way, we love our unique pizza with its famous brown sauce. The county has a growing list of eateries using locally sourced seasonal ingredients to appeal to every palate and dining experience. We love supporting our local producers. Our weekend markets are the places to see and be seen. Don't forget your favourite reusable bag because you will need something to carry home all of your great finds. We care about the environment and sustainability and are always looking at ways to improve our relationship with Mother Nature.

We look after one another. Our community sets the standard for welcoming people who have been displaced from their own homes in other countries and we love what we learn from them.

Perhaps most importantly, we recognize that we are all newcomers in a place that has been nurtured for thousands of years by our indigenous people.

We know that you will soon discover your own things that are true about Pictou County. And when you do, let us know so we can add them to our list.

Welcome Home. We've been waiting for you.

Explore our museums, libraries and archives to relive and learn more of our fascinating story. See 'Museums and History Bufts' on page 82

HISTORY OF PICTOU COUNTY



MCCULLOCH HOUSE MUSEUM AND GENEALOGY CENTRE: REGISTERED NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE AND DEPOSITORY FOR ARCHIVAL MATERIAL FOR NORTHERN NOVA SCOTIA



MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY: EXPLORE ATLANTIC CANADA'S LARGEST MUSEUM TO DISCOVER THE PEOPLE, PLACES AND MACHINES OF NOVA SCOTIA'S INDUSTRIAL PAST



HECTOR HERITAGE QUAY: EXPLORE THE REPLICA SHIP HECTOR AND NEIGHBOURING FISHERIES MUSEUM



AFRICENTRIC PARK DISPLAY PANEL: THE AFRICENTRIC PARK, LOCATED ON VALE ROAD, OPENED IN 2000 AND BEARS THE INSCRIPTION "TO OUR CHILDREN" AND WAS CREATED TO COMMEMORATE THE PAST, FOCUS ON THE PRESENT AND PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR THE CULTURAL FUTURE OF NOVA SCOTIANS OF AFRICAN DESCENT

THIS PAINTING BY MI'KMAQ ARTIST LEONARD PAUL, DEPICTING WHAT HE ENVISIONED A'SE-K (MI'KMAQ FOR BOAT HARBOUR) LOOKED LIKE CENTURIES AGO BASED ON STORIES PASSED THROUGH GENERATIONS. THE PAINTING IS DISPLAYED IN THE PICTOU LANDING FIRST NATION ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.



FROM SCOTLAND AND BEYOND



Our Pictou County history began several centuries ago, settled by many diverse groups of people and cultures from various parts of the globe. The Mi'kmaq and their ancestors have lived in Piwktuk for more than 11,000 years. At the heart of the Mi'kmaw homeland, Piwktuk is intimately tied to the shoreline of the Northumberland Strait as well as to Epekwitk (PEI).

In 1767, the Ship *Betsey* arrived with settlers from Philadelphia, among them some of the first people of African descent, some arriving as enslaved, and six years later, the Ship *Hector* arrived on our shores from Scotland. The voyage of the Ship *Hector* remains one of the most celebrated stories of early Scottish settlement in Canada, dubbing the Town of Pictou "The Birthplace of New Scotland." The survival of the 189 Highlanders on board is credited to the support of the Mi'kmaq, who guided the newcomers through the harsh winter.

For centuries, Pictou County has been home to resourceful, industrious, entrepreneurial and hardworking people. With its accommodating waterways and ocean-access, Pictou County was once a thriving ship-building hub. For centuries the county has been and still is a vital fishing portal for the province, the country and for seafood lovers globally. Large coal deposits throughout the county drove economic development for more than a century with extensive mining operations, Canada's first rail transportation, steel production and railcar manufacturing.

Today, Pictou County has welcomed people from all over the world who collectively contribute to this community, writing the next chapters of our history books.

GET OUT AND EXPLORE

Pictou County's history could inspire a novel or screenplay of epic proportions. We encourage you to get to know what has made our community the place it is today by exploring our many museums, libraries, monuments and historical spaces for hands-on learning. There are parts of our collective history that are difficult to learn of, that we do not wish to exclude, or presume did not take place here. We encourage you to explore and understand all parts of our community's, province's and country's history. Many local authors have written about our history, and we urge you to participate in any cultural event to speak with people in the community and hear our fascinating stories.





POPULATION: 600

PICTOU LANDING FIRST NATION

Pictou Landing Mi'kmaw Nation is a Mi'kma'ki community located on nearly 530 hectares along the Northumberland Strait.

The community is home to 459 band members, the Victoria Corner Market, and a health centre with a full-time nurse, doctor and home care services. There is also a school for grades primary through eight, a day care, fire hall, fisheries complex where 26 community-owned vessels are stored in the off-season, and the locally-owned Wolf Den gaming centre.

Pictou Landing is governed by an elected Chief and Band Council, who each serve a two-year term. Contacts for the Chief and council are listed at: plfn.ca/community/chief-council

In 2016 Pictou Landing celebrated the opening of its new band office, constructed in partnership with MacGregor's Industrial Group, Solar Global Solutions and the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce, who collaborated on a quick-build prototype that could be replicated in other areas. One

unique feature is the solar panels housed on the roof of the building, providing electricity for the office.

PICTOU LANDING FIRST NATION SCHOOL

A state-of-the-art building was opened in February 2020. The school features new classrooms to support modern teaching, and includes a large gymnasium, digital media room, library, cafeteria and more. The school also provides space for community activities and events.





plfn.ca



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Pictou Landing kicks off the powwow trail each year with its Mawio'mi. It also hosts an Elders Trip to Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, a community Father's Day Fishing Derby, a Mother's Day Tea, a Children's Christmas party and a community Christmas parade, among other events.

MAWIO'MI ANNUAL POWWOW

This is an event that you need to experience to truly appreciate the history, culture, passion and vibrancy of the Mi'kmaw people. The event is open to the public, and draws people from all over Atlantic Canada as well as Quebec. Events include lighting of the Sacred Fire, storytelling, the Grand Entry, drumming competitions and incredible food offerings.



PICTOU LANDING FIRST NATION SCHOOL



PHOTO: ADAM PAUL

LEARN SOME PHRASES IN MI'KMAQ

Mawio'mi means 'to gather'

Welcome – Pjila'si

Hello – Kwe'

How are you? – Me'tal-wuleyn?

Thank you – Wela'lin



Download the L'nui'suti app to learn more Mi'kmaq.



POPULATION: 22,000

MUNICIPALITY OF PICTOU COUNTY



PHOTO: TOURISM NOVA SCOTIA

However you enter, you will be greeted by the Municipality of Pictou County, the largest and most sprawling of our county's municipal units.

CHECK OUT THOSE COMMUNITIES

On Highway 6 – The Sunrise Trail you can explore Caribou, Three Brooks, Toney River, Seafoam and River John. Take Highway 256, and you'll venture through Lyons Brook, Scotsburn, West Branch and can connect to Durham. If you keep going, or from the Trans Canada Highway, you'll find Alma, home to one of our three high schools, Northumberland Regional, and Saltsprings. Out behind Westville you'll see Union Centre, and through Stellarton the communities of Hopewell, Eureka, Glencoe, Sunnybrae, and Plymouth. Venture through McLellan's Brook, to Coalburn, Thorburn and Garden of Eden. From the Trans Canada in Sutherland's River, you can take Exit 27 to French River, or along the Shore Road for a beautiful drive along the water through communities like Merigomish, Lower Barney's River, Lismore, Ardness, Bailey's Brook and Knoydart. Highway 348 leads you to Melmerby Beach, and through Little Harbour, Chance Harbour, Pictou Landing and Hillside. Heading across the Trenton Connector will lead you to Abercrombie and Granton. On the far side of Pictou you'll find Braeshore and Caribou, home to Northumberland Ferries that connects our province to Prince Edward Island. Across the water is Pictou Island, a 23.75 sq-km island located four nautical miles off of Pictou County's shoreline, which is home to a small group of year-round residents and numerous summer dwellers. In short, there are dozens of communities throughout Pictou County offering the best in people and spaces for day trips, evening drives, or a place to call home.

Check out the map on page 4 to help you navigate.

BROADBAND INTERNET

The Municipality of Pictou County has been developing a high-speed internet network with a goal to have this service offered across the entire municipality

county.pictou.ns.ca



TIP FROM THE LOCALS

People are very proud of the smaller, distinct communities they're from or grew up in, and you'll hear the names mentioned here (and more) quite frequently.

JOINING IN THE COMMUNITIES

Many of the communities listed here have community centres or organizations and community groups that gather, socialize or offer sporting, arts and culture opportunities – the county truly has it all.

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

There is something nearly every week and weekend throughout the summer, including River John Festival Days and Read by the Sea, Scotsburn Winter Carnival and Pork Chop BBQ, Lismore Dinner Theatre, Black Top Ball (Ponds), Hopewell Ceilidh, Music Mountain (Thorburn), and the Blue Mountain Blueberry Festival.



HOPEWELL FOOTBRIDGE | PHOTO: ANGIE TURNER



FERRIES THAT SERVE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA
PHOTO: NORTHUMBERLAND FERRIES

ABOUT PICTOU ISLAND

- The island is off the grid: residents supply their own energy with solar power, windmills and generators
- The island has its own postal code: B0K 1J0
- Supplies such as groceries or mail arrive by plane or boat
- There is a ferry service that runs seasonally for anyone to visit the island
- There are a variety of small businesses on the island including camping and a winery



New Glasgow
flourish

POPULATION: 9,000

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW



THE DOCK | PHOTO: TOURISM NOVA SCOTIA



DOWNTOWN NEW GLASGOW, PROVOST STREET | PHOTO: DEANS

The Town of New Glasgow lines the banks of the East River. Named for Glasgow, Scotland, the town was founded on shipbuilding. In fact, Captain George MacKenzie, the father of Nova Scotia shipbuilding, was a resident here in the 1800s. Today the town serves as the commercial service centre for Pictou County and has the highest population density per square kilometre outside of the Halifax region. Along the west side of the river is the Samson walking trail and the downtown core is home to a variety of shops, services and restaurants.

ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

Enjoy the town's many parks and trails, such as Goodman Rotary Park along the riverbanks where you can enjoy a picnic, and even outdoor concerts and events, or the Africentre Heritage Park on Vale Road, which was created in 2000 to commemorate the past, focus on the present and provide a foundation for the cultural future of Nova Scotians of African descent.

Near North Nova Education Centre is the Scott Weeks Sports Complex (the on-site fields are known as Parkdale) where, in the warmer months you'll see a host of activities: rugby, ultimate frisbee, soccer and more. There is also a playground on-site, as well as a skate park, a track, nearby trail, and the Bluenose Curling Club.

There are several other elementary and middle schools, community centres such as the Ward One Community Centre (Brother Street), and the North End Rec Centre (High Street), and playgrounds such as the Westside Community Centre (Lavinia Street).



DOWNTOWN NEW GLASGOW, VIOLA DAVIS MURAL | PHOTO: DEANS

TIP FROM THE LOCALS

Across from the Westside Community Centre is the town's outdoor tennis courts, where you can play or take lessons.

You'll often hear parts of New Glasgow referred to as the 'East' and 'West' Side, which simply denotes which side of the East River the location is on.

GETTING AROUND

From Trans-Canada Highway 104, East River Road is the main corridor from the highway (Exit 25) where you'll see the East River Road Industrial Park, our Aberdeen Hospital, the Aberdeen Business Centre, and a variety of businesses and services. East River Road leads to Archimedes Street and the town's downtown core.

MUST-SEE (AND HEAR) EVENTS

New Glasgow is host to a variety of annual events such as the Riverfront Music Jubilee, the Festival of the Tartans – New Glasgow Highland Games which celebrates our Scottish heritage, Johnny Miles Running Events, the Marathon of Respect and Equality, the Race on the River Dragon Boat Festival, and the New Glasgow Music Festival.

POPULATION: 3,186



TOWN OF PICTOU

The Birthplace of New Scotland, and all things related – food, music, architecture, language, genealogy and ties to the sea.

The summer breeze carries the sound of local pipe and drum bands. Pictou boasts a beautiful waterfront with the Jitney Walking Trail, marinas, a yacht club, year-round restaurants with water views and seasonal patios. Enjoy learning about the rich fishing industry at the Pictou Fisheries Museum, or our Scottish heritage at the Hector Heritage Quay and visit the replica Ship *Hector*. Visit the nearby McCulloch House Museum and Genealogy Centre for historical and art displays and exhibits or trace a family tree using their archives and genealogical information.

The Pictou Lobster Carnival is an annual event marking the end of lobster season, and in the fall, enjoy the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition, a local rural fair featuring agriculture events, local music and entertainment for all ages.



The deCoste Performing Arts Centre is one of the finest venues for the performing arts in Eastern Canada, hosting concerts, conventions, awards banquets, business seminars, wedding receptions, food fairs and craft shows. Across the street, with products recognized around the world for their beauty, balance and quality, you will discover Grohmann Knives among several other shops and services in downtown Pictou.

In winter, you can head for a skate or enjoy a hockey game at the Hector Arena, or give curling a try at the local club. In summer, enjoy the nearby beautiful beaches, and camping.

If you are a swimmer, head for a dip (or a deep dive) at the Pictou Fisheries Pool, a recreational pool facility offering swimming lessons, competitive swimming programming, and a variety of safety and training courses.

Pictou Recreation and Parks offers a variety of sporting and recreational programs for all ages – from tai chi, to swimming, tennis, soccer, badminton and photography classes – there's always lots to choose from to stay social and active year-round.



FOUNDED IN 1891, AND HEADQUARTERED IN PICTOU, ADVOCATE PRINTING & PUBLISHING IS THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT PRINTER IN ATLANTIC CANADA



PICTOU ACADEMY GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020



FACT

While crossing the Pictou Causeway you may spot a colony of cormorants, which nest on posts along the water's edge during spring and summer

townofpictou.ca



In Pictou you will discover historic **PICTOU ACADEMY** as part of the Pre-Primary to Grade 12 public schools within walking distance.

THE JITNEY TRAIL IS PART OF THE GREAT TRAIL OF CANADA (Trans Canada Trail), the world's longest network of recreational trails, stretching over 24,000 kms passing through every province and territory connected by greenway, waterway or roadway.

WANT TO BE IN THE KNOW IN PICTOU? Subscribe to the town's newsletter at townofpictou.ca



PICTOU WATERFRONT
PHOTO: JOHN ROBERT MARSHALL

TIP FROM THE LOCALS

The Pictou waterfront is the perfect spot to enjoy an evening walk, finished with an ice-cream cone and beautiful water views



PHOTO: TOURISM NOVA SCOTIA



DECOSTE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE | PHOTO: JOEL COCK

POPULATION: 4,200



TOWN OF STELLARTON



IN MEMORY OF MY DAD, JOSEPH WILSACK | PHOTO: STEPHEN WILSACK

BEST VIEW IN TOWN

Head to the Stellarton water tower, accessible through the Pioneer Coal Track Facility at 453 Foster Ave., home to Pictou County Athletics



STELLARTON TOWN HALL

Stellarton has a rich history with the exploration and operations of coal mining and the railroad. It is home to the founding and current headquarters of the Sobeys national grocery chain, and features many recreational facilities and parks.

DID YOU KNOW? Stellarton is known as the birthplace of the railway in Canada.

Stellarton has a bustling downtown with everything you need within blocks of each other: a curling club, restaurants, pharmacies, banks, other services, a virtual reality experience, a library, an ice cream shop, a grocery store and much, much more. Located next to the fire hall, the Sobeys Pavilion at Town Square is a gathering place for community events, and in the summer is the perfect place to cool off with a splash pad.

Nearby, you'll find the Nova Scotia Community College's (NSCC) Pictou Campus, the Staghorn Shooting Club, seven ball fields, and the William M. Sobeys Indoor Sports Complex, which offers indoor sports programming for soccer, baseball, tennis, walking, family fun nights, and a squash court. Located outside the complex are several sports fields and a fenced off-leash dog park.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS: Sledding at the Albion ball field is a favourite activity in winter.

There are many new and long-standing businesses and services in Stellarton, such as Sobeys Inc., WearWell Garments, Zenabis,

stellarton.ca



Nova Scotia Spirit Co., Backstage Brewing Co., and the famous, Sam's Pizza where you can enjoy the local delicacy of brown sauce pizza.

GET READY FOR HOMECOMING

Stellarton Homecoming is a fun annual event with socials, BBQs, sporting events, tea with the Mayor, street parties and dances, pancake breakfast, church celebrations, a children's costume parade and more. (Yes, there's MORE).

DID YOU KNOW? Stellarton Town Council offers live streaming of their meetings on their YouTube Channel.

SOBEYS

Sobeys began right here in Stellarton in 1907 with J.W. Sobeys delivering meat with a horse drawn carriage. Today, they've grown to 1,500 stores in all 10 provinces under retail banners that include Sobeys, Safeway, IGA, Foodland, FreshCo, Thrifty Foods and Lawtons Drugs, as well as more than 350 retail fuel locations, employing more than 127,000 people country-wide.



POPULATION: 2,474

TOWN OF TRENTON



SNOWSHOEING IN TRENTON PARK

Trenton was built by industry starting with shipbuilding, later leading to the manufacturing of steel, railcars and glass. In 1883, the first pouring of steel in British North America took place in Trenton.

Today, Trenton is home to a post office, pharmacy, a library, the Trenton Heritage Room, convenience stores, three restaurants and other services, mostly located along Main Street. Trenton has two ball fields, the Scotia Park ballfield and the Eban MacIsaac Ball Field, a skateboard park, tennis courts, youth centre, the Albion Boxing Club, Steeltown Friendly Group Seniors Club and the Trenton Minor Sports Community Centre which hosts a variety of events such as the Pictou County Seniors Festival, roller derby races, hockey, skating and more. Featured on Main Street is Trenton Station, a covered outdoor space used for special events and markets.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1883, the first pouring of steel in British North America took place in Trenton

LEARN ABOUT TRENTON'S INDUSTRIAL HISTORY AT THE VARIOUS MONUMENTS AND HISTORICAL PANELS DOWNTOWN, AND AT THE TRENTON HERITAGE ROOM

STEELTOWN

DID YOU KNOW?

Trenton is home to the first masjid (mosque) in Pictou County, located on Forge Street

town.trenton.ns.ca



TRENTON PARK | PHOTO LYNN A.

LOCAL HIGHLIGHT

Trenton Park, our largest municipal park, stretching through 565 acres of forest. This is a popular spot for walks and bike rides around the pond, or through the well-marked trails, and in the summer many enjoy a dip in the pool, along with a variety of special events and activities. In 2019, it was announced that the park would be undergoing a \$3.8-million revitalization, introducing a new splash pad, dog park, a new playground and other structural upgrades.

MUST-SEE EVENT

Trenton Funfest, an annual event for small town summer fun offers a community-wide yard sale, scavenger hunts, events at Trenton Park, a rink dance and much more.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS

There's an accessible fishing spot at Trenton Park for catch-and-release fishing.

TRENTON AIRPORT – CYTN

Trenton is also home to the Trenton Airport – a privately owned airport that has welcomed guests such as Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, Babe Ruth, Bill Clinton, along with numerous Canadian Prime Ministers and politicians.



POPULATION: 3,628

TOWN OF WESTVILLE



CANADA DAY IN WESTVILLE | PHOTO: STEVE SMITH



DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1900s Westville was known for having the largest natural ice skating rink east of Montreal

With deep roots in mining, Westville features a downtown core with everything you need – a grocery store, post office, a health clinic, a craft shop, restaurants, coffee shops and other services. Westville is the place to be leading up to and enjoying Canada Day – known for its annual Canada Day events which includes a community favourite: The Canada Day Parade, where thousands of people line the streets. Nearby is the Pictou County Military Museum, the library and a variety of sporting opportunities.

COME PLAY IN WESTVILLE

Westville is home to several ways to get active, including the Westville Rink, the Westville Curling Club, ball fields, indoor archery, seniors exercise programming and more. There are also a variety of groups, organizations and events such as the quilting guild, cadets, craft fairs, card parties and fitness classes, just to name a few, all taking place in this small town with a big heart. Friendly people in the town would be more than happy to welcome you to their various groups and join in their activities.

Westville is home to the Highland Drive-in – a classic twist on a fun outing for all ages



THE WESTVILLE SPLASH PAD



THE HIGHLAND DRIVE-IN THEATRE | PHOTO: STEVE SMITH

SPLISH SPLASH

An exciting addition to the town was the completion of the town's splash pad in 2018, a fundraising effort by the Rotary Club of Westville. The splash pad is full of brightly-coloured interactive water play equipment, offering a safe and accessible way to cool off.

HIT THE TRAILS

Explore Acadia Park, where you'll discover walking trails, a playground and a Miner's Memorial. In the summer, enjoy a picnic, or head out for a snowshoe or cross-country ski in the winter. The trail is maintained in the winter months, and the park is wheelchair accessible.

DON'T MISS

WESTVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CHICKEN BARBECUE, traditionally held in June, the event marks the unofficial kick-off to summer in the community.

PICTOU COUNTY MILITARY MUSEUM – 2020 Queen St.

Explore Pictou County's proud military history at the museum which honours those past and present who have served in the army, navy and air force. The museum houses a collection of more than 15,000 objects from regimental buttons, hat badges and uniforms to ship cap tallies and weapons. You can also do your own research and enjoy the viewing which displays more than 1,000 military profiles, pictures and documents.

HOUSING in Pictou County

By global, national, and even provincial standards, homes in Pictou County are considered very affordable, with a wide variety of options, styles and locations. Though sometimes challenging to find due to the affordability of home ownership, there are also rental opportunities for homes and apartments in the community.

Styles range from single- and multi-family modern buildings to renovations maintaining the charming character of our century-old homes. The decision to live within the town limits, or in the county depends on your work and life, and school of choice for your children (if applicable). No matter where you choose to live, your daily commute will normally be no longer than a few songs on your playlist.

LOOKING TO BUY?

CONNECT WITH A REALTOR

We have many reputable and knowledgeable realtors in our community who would be delighted to work with you to find your dream home.

You can visit realtor.ca to look at current listings, find a realtor or explore mortgage calculations. Local individual real estate businesses or companies also have their own listings and tools to support you in finding your next home. Traditionally, more purchasers choose to work with one realtor who coordinates homes to be viewed, whether privately or publicly listed. Curious to see your buying options? Have a look online, or head out for a drive to see what might work for you.

TYPES OF HOME HEATING

The most common heating options for heating your home are electric or oil heating. There are also options for propane gas heating, and solar energy.

COTTAGE, LAKE AND CAMP LIFE

Given our proximity to the ocean and waterways, cottages along our coastlines are a popular

way of life for many. Typically, people in Pictou County will head to their cottages for the summer season, although, many enjoy the quick trip to the cottage so much that they have opted to winterize their cottage dwellings. Renting cottages for a summer staycation is also a popular choice. Some people also have camps or cabins, providing a rustic opportunity to enjoy our outdoor settings, or as a place for those who enjoy hunting, fishing, and the outdoors.

DEED TRANSFER TAX

When you buy a house, condo or land in Nova Scotia you are subject to land transfer tax which is due upon closing. In Pictou County, the rate is set and collected by your municipal unit, and the current rate is 1% of the value of the property transferred.

SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATIONS

Pictou County is home to a variety of hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, and inns, in addition to private listings on Airbnb.com.

To find a list of accommodations here on the North Shore, you can visit visitdeans.ca. In addition, Tourism Nova Scotia offers a free reservation/booking service by calling toll-free 1-800-565-0000 or visiting novascotia.com



FACT

Homes in Pictou County
are considered very
affordable



PHOTO: DR. GERRY FARRELL

SAFETY & FIRST RESPONDERS

Pictou County is considered a safe place to live, with limited crime. We are protected by the RCMP and various police departments, and by the dedicated first responders and emergency professionals in our community.

FIREFIGHTERS

Fire and rescue services are provided by the 25 fire departments and one industrial fire department (Michelin) throughout Pictou County. Our fire halls are also a gathering place for community events, which take place throughout the year. In some circumstances, we also rely on Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue.

ABERDEEN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY

Emergency departments (EDs) and their staff are an essential part of the province's health care system, quickly assessing and managing patients with unexpected illness or injury. The emergency room at the Aberdeen Hospital (835 East River Rd., New Glasgow) provides 24/7 access to emergency services.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Emergency Management Office (EMO) is responsible for emergency planning and coordinating emergency responses. The office works with municipal authorities to help plan for emergencies, coordinate provincial resources when there is an emergency and help with analysis and evaluation after an emergency. They also administer the provincial emergency 911 service.

EHS (EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES)

In Nova Scotia, EHS provides emergency response via ground ambulance and the Life Flight helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft.

POLICING IN PICTOU COUNTY

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP)

For nearly 150 years, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has been Canada's national police service.

In Pictou County, there are two RCMP detachments: Pictou (38 Caladh Ave.) and Stellarton (177 North Foord St.)

These detachments are responsible for policing in the Town of Pictou, the Municipality of Pictou County, Pictou Landing First Nation, and our rural roads and highways.

In Pictou County, there are three municipal police forces:

STELLARTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 South Foord St., Stellarton

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency: 902-752-6160

WESTVILLE POLICE SERVICE

2042 Queen St., Westville

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency: 902-396-2777

NEW GLASGOW REGIONAL POLICE

(responsible for Trenton as well)

225 Park St., New Glasgow

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency: 902-752-1941



**REMO – Regional
Emergency Management
Organization** Pictou County
delivers essential services
to all residents during
emergency situations

EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMERGENCY 911

If your health, safety or property is threatened and you need help right away, call 911. The 911 operator will notify emergency responders, like fire, police or ambulance.

911 operators have access to interpreters in more than 170 languages.

For text with 9-1-1 service (for those with hearing or speech impairments), ensure your cell phone is compatible with the service and register your cell phone number with your wireless provider. You also need to ensure you have a cell phone that's compatible with 9-1-1 Service Text.

HEALTH CARE QUESTIONS 811

Nova Scotians may access health information and advice by calling 811. The service is available for non-urgent, health-related issues and questions, and can help with advice on everything from bee stings and frostbite to coughs and flu.

Registered nurses are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide reassurance and information on general issues and questions.



Health information and advice may include self-care at home or a recommendation to see a care provider or visit a local emergency department.

Callers may also obtain information about health-related services available in their community. Services are available in more than 125 languages, including French, Farsi, Cantonese, and Arabic.

For more information about 811, visit 811.novascotia.ca.

PROVINCIAL SERVICES & PROGRAMS 211

211 is a free, confidential information and referral service that can connect you to thousands of programs and services offered by local community groups, non-profits and government departments across Nova Scotia. 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, by searching the easy-to-use online database at ns.211.ca or by texting 211 (Monday – Friday from 9 am – 6 pm).

WEATHER UPDATES AND ROAD CONDITIONS 511

For up-to-date road conditions in Nova Scotia. Visit 511.novascotia.ca for maps and access to real-time highway cameras.

SLOW DOWN, MOVE OVER LAW

In Nova Scotia, if you see an emergency vehicle pulled over with its lights flashing, slow down to 60 km/h or obey the speed limit if it's lower than 60 km/h. If you're on a road with two or more lanes in your direction, you must move into another lane farthest away from the stopped vehicle if you can do so safely. You don't need to slow down or move over if the vehicle is on the other side of the median on a divided highway.

This law has been updated to include public safety officers and tow truck drivers as well as emergency personnel, conservation officers and motor vehicle inspectors.

HEALTH CARE IN PICTOU COUNTY

Nova Scotia Health Authority provides health services to Nova Scotians and some specialized services to Maritimers and Atlantic Canadians. The Health Authority operates hospitals, health centres and community-based programs across the province.

In Pictou County, services are delivered through the Aberdeen Hospital (835 East River Rd., New Glasgow) Sutherland Harris Memorial Hospital (222 Haliburton Rd., Pictou), our primary health facilities, and other businesses and organizations in the community.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Pictou County has both established collaborative care practices including the East Side Health Centre, West Side Health Centre, Pictou West Health Centre, the Westville Medical Clinic, and traditional family medicine practices in Stellarton, New Glasgow, and Pictou. We also have the unique opportunity to partner with the Pictou Landing First Nation Health Centre to help address the health care needs within the First Nation community. There are also services for Mental Health and Addictions, Blood Collection, Public Health and the One Door Chronic Disease Clinic available in the community. Other areas related to health care such as hearing services, therapeutic services, natural healing, respiratory care and more, are also available throughout the community.





THE NEWLY REDEVELOPED EMERGENCY WING AT ABERDEEN HOSPITAL IN NEW GLASGOW | PHOTO: STEVE SMITH, VISIONFIRE STUDIOS

The Aberdeen Hospital, located at 835 East River Rd., New Glasgow, is the regional acute care facility serving residents of Pictou County, offering primary and secondary services through inpatient, outpatient and community-based services and programs.

LEFT: DR. DEBORAH STRAUB HAS BEEN AN EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN AT THE ABERDEEN HOSPITAL FOR 25 YEARS

PHOTO: STEVE SMITH, VISIONFIRE STUDIOS

The services provided include:

- Anesthesiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- General Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- Medical Oncology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Palliative Care
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Radiology

The Outdoor

You may hear the Aberdeen Emergency Department called “The Outdoor” by locals – to learn more about local lingo visit page 54.

Need a Family Practice Registry

The Need a Family Practice Registry is a provincial list for people without a family doctor or nurse practitioner. You can register by calling 811 or by visiting: needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca. Once you have registered, you will be added to the list. When a primary care provider in your area is accepting new patients, Nova Scotia Health Authority will contact you by phone and/or email. We may also contact you occasionally to update your personal information, or to confirm that you need to remain on the registry.

Nova Scotians may access health information and advice by dialing 811 where registered nurses are available 24/7. For more important numbers please visit page 27.



PASSIONATE ABOUT HEALTH CARE? VOLUNTEER WITH A COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD (CHBs)

Community health boards are committed groups of volunteers who are the eyes, ears and voices of the community and its residents, working together with the NSHA to improve the health of their communities. In Pictou County there are two CHB's: the Pictou West Community Health Board, and the Central and East Pictou Community Health Board. Learn more at communityhealthboards.ns.ca/northern-zone.

HEALTHY PICTOU COUNTY

Healthy Pictou County is a physician-led community effort to attract and retain health care providers and students in Pictou County. If you are a medical student, a physician or health care provider interested in practicing in Pictou County, please visit healthypictoucounty.ca.



PHOTO: ABERDEEN HEALTH FOUNDATION



PHOTO: ABERDEEN HEALTH FOUNDATION

OUR HEALTH FOUNDATIONS

ABERDEEN HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Aberdeen Health Foundation was established in 1986 to support enhanced medical equipment and education for staff at the Aberdeen Hospital. While this remains the focus, the Foundation has expanded its funding priorities in recent years to include mental health and community-based initiatives that promote population health.

Since its inception, the Aberdeen Health Foundation has invested nearly \$30 million to enhance health care in Pictou County. The organization's \$1-1.5 million annual investment is funded primarily through income generated by endowed funds. The Foundation is dedicated to directing resources to opportunities most likely to have a positive, long-term impact on the health of our community. For updates, news and to learn more about the Aberdeen Health Foundation, please visit aberdeenhealthfoundation.com

SUTHERLAND HARRIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

The Sutherland Harris Memorial Hospital Foundation (SHMHF) was established in 1993, with its main focus and emphasis being to support the Sutherland Harris Memorial Hospital (SHMH). Generally, one half of the foundation's yearly funds are designated to SHMH requests such as providing Wi-Fi to the Restorative Care Unit, offering to help with retention and expansion of the dialysis unit, and purchasing new, key equipment for the physiotherapy department.

The SHMHF has provided financial assistance to the Bright Smiles dental project, and assisted with a wheelchair lift and hearing loop system at the deCoste Performing Arts Centre, among many other projects. The Foundation also supports students at Pictou Academy and Northumberland Regional High School who are entering health-related fields in universities with a bursary/grant program.



PHOTO: STEVE SMITH, VISIONFIRE STUDIOS

EDUCATION & SCHOOLS

Schools in Pictou County belong to the Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education, which serves four areas in Central and Northern Nova Scotia.

Pictou County is part of the Celtic Family of Schools, which is made up of 16 schools in Pictou County: seven elementary schools, five elementary/middle schools, one middle/junior school, one junior/high school and two high schools (Grades 9-12).

There are supports and opportunities available to address differences in learning for students with a wide range of special needs. Service is provided to schools on a “needs” basis, within available resources, and can be discussed directly with the schools.

For more information, visit ccrce.ca



NORTH NOVA EDUCATION CENTRE



NORTHUMBERLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



NEW GLASGOW ACADEMY

SCHOOL DAYS

The school year runs from early-September through to the end of June with scheduled breaks over the December holidays, observance of other holidays and in-service days, and breaks for one week in March, where there are often a variety of programming, camps and other opportunities for students to participate in within the community.

PRE-PRIMARY

Beginning in fall 2019 and then expanding to all schools in 2020, Nova Scotia offers a pre-primary program for four-year-olds in the province to help transition them to Primary the following year.

Program details, requirements and FAQs can be found at ednet.ns.ca/pre-primary.

FRENCH PROGRAMS

Core French is a compulsory course for all students in Nova Scotia from Grades 4 to 9, in addition, students may participate in optional French Programs:

EARLY IMMERSION Grade Primary Entry Point (approximately 80% of learning time in French).

Available at AG Baillie Elementary School in New Glasgow.

MIDDLE IMMERSION Grade 4 Entry Point (Celtic Family of Schools only) (approx. 70% of learning time in French)

Available at West Pictou Consolidated in Lyons Brook.

LATE IMMERSION Grade 7 Entry Point (approximately 70% of learning time in French)

INTEGRATED FRENCH Grade 7 Entry Point (approximately 25-30% of learning time in French)

Available Dr. W. A. MacLeod Consolidated in Riverton.

More details are available at ccrce.ca/optional-french-programs

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA PROGRAM

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is a rigorous pre-university course of studies designed for students aged 16 to 19 delivered over the last two years of a student's schooling (Grades 11 and 12 in Nova Scotia). In Pictou County, this is offered at Northumberland Regional High School.

In Nova Scotia all IB Diploma schools have open admission. While students who are considering enrolling in the IB Diploma Program are advised to take pre-IB courses in Grade 10, it is not required.

Students who are interested in the IB Diploma Program should consult with the IB Coordinator.



NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (NSCC) PICTOU CAMPUS, STELLARTON



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY (STFX)

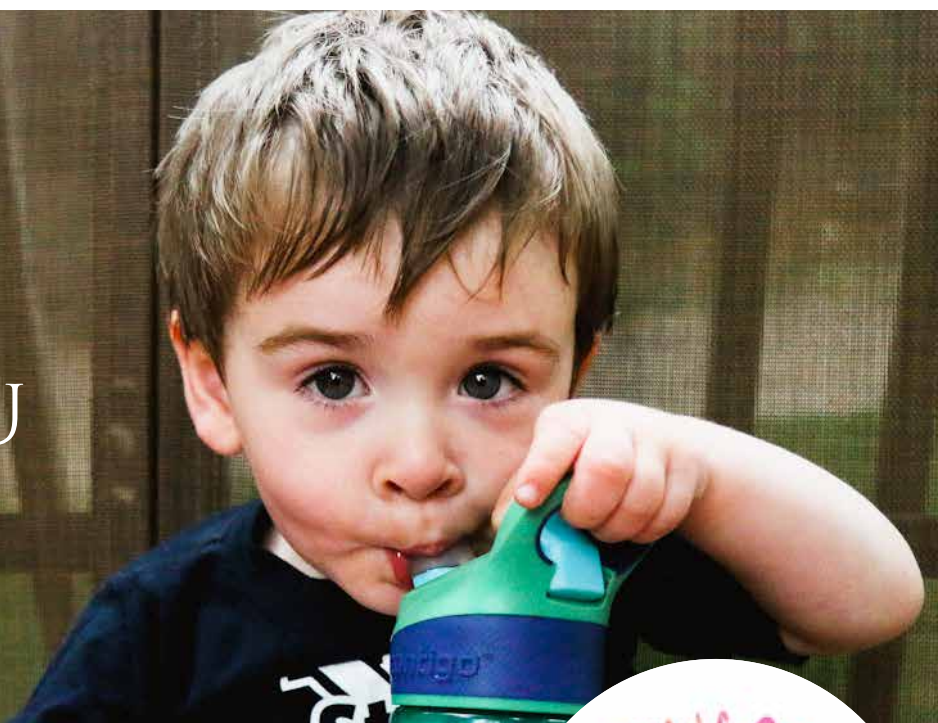
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Post-secondary education in Nova Scotia is delivered through 10 publicly supported degree-granting institutions and one province-wide community college – the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC). Here in Pictou County, we are home to

the NSCC's Pictou Campus located in Stellarton, offering full-time programs and continuing education. A 45-minute drive to Antigonish will bring you to one of Canada's premier undergraduate universities, St. Francis Xavier University,

a 37-minute drive to Bible Hill will bring you to the Dalhousie Agricultural College (referred to as Dal University's AC). Many people choose to live in Pictou County and commute to either institution for schooling or employment.

CHILD CARE IN PICTOU COUNTY



Finding a person or a group of people who you can trust to look after your child is a big decision. Here in Pictou County, we have all kinds of wonderful, caring and professional child care providers to help you and your family.

Regulated child care is licensed through the Government of Nova Scotia and administered through registered day care organizations. In Pictou County, we have two YMCA day care sites, as well as many privately-run day care businesses. Options are also available for in-home care for infants, toddlers, and after-school care for school-aged children. Many day cares offer flexible hours, which is especially welcomed by parents or guardians requiring early drop-offs, or later pick-ups.

There are also a variety of preschools throughout the County to prepare your child for school, which for some, can go up to four years of age, as the Government of Nova Scotia introduced the Pre-Primary Program in the province.

You may hear the term Early Childhood Educators or ECEs. These are certified child

care providers who have completed a four-year degree or two-year diploma program, and can be found in various day cares, and administering the pre-primary program in our schools.

When the school bell rings, there are many after-school care options to choose from, whether in day care settings, in private homes, within local non-profits, or programming provided by our municipalities.

Word of mouth is a powerful tool here! Many parents find great babysitter referrals through neighbours, friends or coworkers. Courses or certification aren't required for babysitting jobs, but are helpful to some, especially teenagers looking to earn some extra income while spending time caring for children in the community. Many municipal units facilitate babysitting courses being offered through organizations like the YMCA, and the Red Cross of Canada.

LOOKING FOR IN-HOME CHILD CARE?

The Nova Scotia Works office of Career Connections will work with you to find in-home care, and can create a confidential employer post to help you find the right fit.



KIDS FIRST

Pictou County Kids First Family Resource in downtown New Glasgow delivers free programs and services to families with children ages 0-6 in Pictou County, as well as offering prenatal supports to pregnant women within the community.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS

Depending on the age of your child and your day care of choice, there may be a wait list for placement. We recommend looking into child care as one of your priorities when considering a relocation.



GETTING AROUND Pictou County

Many people in Pictou County rely on a vehicle for travel. All towns and communities offer free or metered parking, and taxi services are available throughout the county. There are also a variety of car dealerships, car rentals, and mechanics in the community ready and able to serve you and your motor vehicle needs.

DID YOU KNOW? There is a free electric charging station in the Glasgow Square parking lot, as well as a pay-for-service electric charging station at the Needs location in Stellarton.

ACCESS NOVA SCOTIA

The Registry of Motor Vehicles is located at Access Nova Scotia, 94 Lawrence Blvd., Stellarton, and can help you with items like driver's licenses, written and road test and vehicle and plate registration. They are open Mon. – Tues., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and Wed. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (except holidays). Many of these services can also be accessed online: novascotia.ca/sns/rmv

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Walking/running – Many people walk, run or pedal (certain rules apply for cyclists) on the sidewalks or trails.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Both drivers and pedestrians are responsible for crosswalk safety. Crosswalks exist at every intersection. Marked crosswalks have painted white lines and unmarked crosswalks do not. Vehicles must yield to pedestrians in both marked and unmarked crosswalks and pedestrians should use marked crosswalks when available.

CYCLING

Bicycles are allowed on all roads in Nova Scotia unless otherwise posted, and cyclists must follow the same law as motor vehicles.

The one-meter rule applies:

Motorists must leave at least one metre (three feet) of space when passing a cyclist on the road.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

CHAD Transit is a community-based accessible transportation service for all residents of Pictou County. For more information, visit chadtransit.ca or call 902-928-1234 to pre-book a ride.

Fixed-route system In 2020, Stellarton and New Glasgow introduced a fixed-route bus system accessible to the public and operated by CHAD in addition to its existing on-demand, door-to-door service. The fare for passengers is \$3 with discounts available for youth, seniors and pre-purchased tickets or passes.

CONNECTIONS

We are uniquely situated on the northeastern part of Nova Scotia with access to adjacent rural hubs and quick access to other locations in the province and national and international destinations.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (PEI)

Northumberland Ferries Ltd., sails between Caribou, near Pictou, and Wood Islands, PEI. The ferry system is seasonal, usually May-December. Crossing takes 1 hour and 15 minutes.

YARMOUTH 4½ hour drive to the Yarmouth ferry

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

2 hours and 45 minutes to the Newfoundland ferry

NEW BRUNSWICK 1 hour and 35 minutes to the New Brunswick border

There is a Maritime bus drop-off/pick-up in New Glasgow (located in the Irving station on East River Road, near Trans-Canada Highway Exit 25) connecting Nova Scotia, PEI, New Brunswick and Quebec by bus. It also offers an airport shuttle from New Glasgow. Passenger trains are operated by Via Rail, and the nearest passenger train station is located in Truro.



TRENTON AIRPORT (YTN)
is a privately-owned airport
located in the Town of Trenton

DID YOU KNOW?

Canada is a constitutional monarchy. This means the Queen or King of Canada is the head of state; and the Prime Minister is the head of government

CANADA HAS THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Prime Minister leads the federal government based in Ottawa. It deals with national and international matters, such as:

- mail
- taxes
- money
- banking
- shipping
- railways
- pipelines
- telephones
- criminal law
- foreign affairs
- national defence
- employment insurance
- Aboriginal lands and rights

Government of Canada website: canada.ca

We are in the federal riding of Central Nova, and we are represented by a Member of Parliament.

SERVICE CANADA is located at 340 E. River Rd., New Glasgow

Service Canada provides Canadians with a single point of access to a wide range of government services and benefits. We are committed to improving services for Canadians by working with partners to provide access to the full range of government services and benefits that Canadians want and need through the Internet, by telephone, in person or by mail.



PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS

A Premier leads each province and territory.

The provincial and territorial governments have the power to change their laws and manage their own public lands. They are in charge of:

- education
- health care
- road regulations

Pictou County has three provincial ridings: Pictou West, Pictou Centre, and Pictou East, each represented by a Member of the Legislature (MLA). To learn about how government works and to find out who your MLA is, and how to contact them, please visit nslegislature.ca/members.

ACCESS NOVA SCOTIA is located at 94 Lawrence Blvd., Stellarton and provides in-person access to provincial services ranging from things like obtaining your driver's license to information on land and property, to obtaining permits. A full list of services, including what services you can easily access online are available at: novascotia.ca/sns/access/

Government of Nova Scotia website: novascotia.ca

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

Mayors and wardens lead municipal governments.

They are in charge of such things as:

- parks
- roadways
- fire protection
- parking
- local police
- public transportation
- libraries
- local land use
- community water systems

In Pictou County we have six municipal units: Municipality of Pictou County, Town of New Glasgow, Town of Pictou, Town of Stellarton, Town of Trenton, and Town of Westville. To learn more about each municipal unit, please visit pages 12-23.

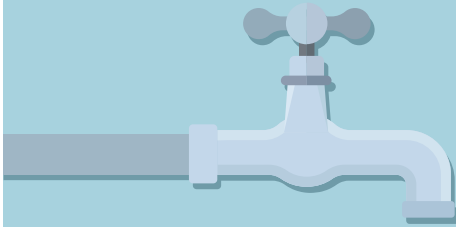


FIRST NATION GOVERNANCE

First Nation communities in Canada are each governed by an elected Chief and Band Council. To learn more, visit plfn.ca or see page 10.

BILLS and UTILITIES

Some of the services, costs and monthly bills you may have when moving to or living in Pictou County:



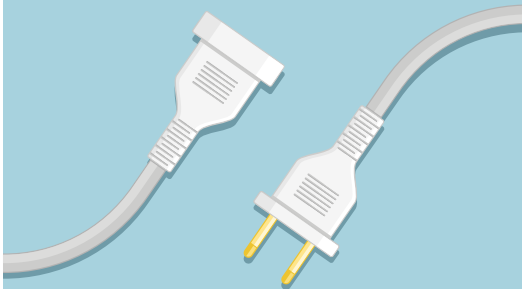
WATER AND SEWER

Is managed through each municipal unit, with the county relying on well water service.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

This is managed through Pictou County Solid Waste, with waste management fees administered through each municipal unit. See page 38 for more information and helpful tips.



ELECTRICITY AND HEATING

In Nova Scotia, we have one company, Nova Scotia Power, an Emera Company that is our electric utility. Electric heating is one popular source of heating, in addition to oil and gas heating. There are many local providers for oil and gas, and the source of heating for your home might be something you wish to consider when purchasing or renting a home, as each require maintenance, and estimated costs.

INSURANCE

Insurance is required for all drivers in our province, however the types of coverage do vary. In addition, it's highly recommended that you also secure insurance for your home and your belongings (Referred to as Contents or Tenants Insurance).



CABLE AND INTERNET

Cable and internet is available from a variety of providers in our area, the largest being Bell Aliant and Eastlink, and other local options such as Seaside Internet, TNC Wireless and Xplornet. It's recommended that you do your research to ensure that service can be provided to your area of choice.

DID YOU KNOW?

When purchasing a home, you can request to see a history of the utilities payments to include that in your decision-making

REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE

PICTOU COUNTY SOLID WASTE pcwastemgmt.com

Pictou County Solid Waste (PCSW) is Pictou County's waste management service, providing biweekly collection of residential waste, including garbage, recyclables and compost.

DIVERT NS

Find your local Enviro-Depot™ at divertns.ca

DivertNS is a not-for-profit corporation that is championing recycling by working with Nova Scotians to improve our environment, economy, and quality of life by reducing, reusing, recycling, and recovering resources.

Divert NS operates a key recycling program in Nova Scotia, the Beverage Container Deposit-Refund Program. All beverage containers (excluding milk) can be returned to an Enviro-Depot™ for refund.

Some Enviro-Depots accept extra materials such as electronics or paint – you can call ahead to determine what your depot accepts.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS IN PICTOU COUNTY

Bill Stewart's Scrap Metal & Enviro Depot

2636 Westville Rd., New Glasgow 902-752-8882

Golden Penny

15 Bridge Ave., Stellarton 902-752-3741

John's Bottle Exchange

3297 Hwy 376, Pictou

At almost 83%,
Nova Scotia has one of the
best beverage container return
rates in Canada

– DivertNS

DID YOU KNOW?

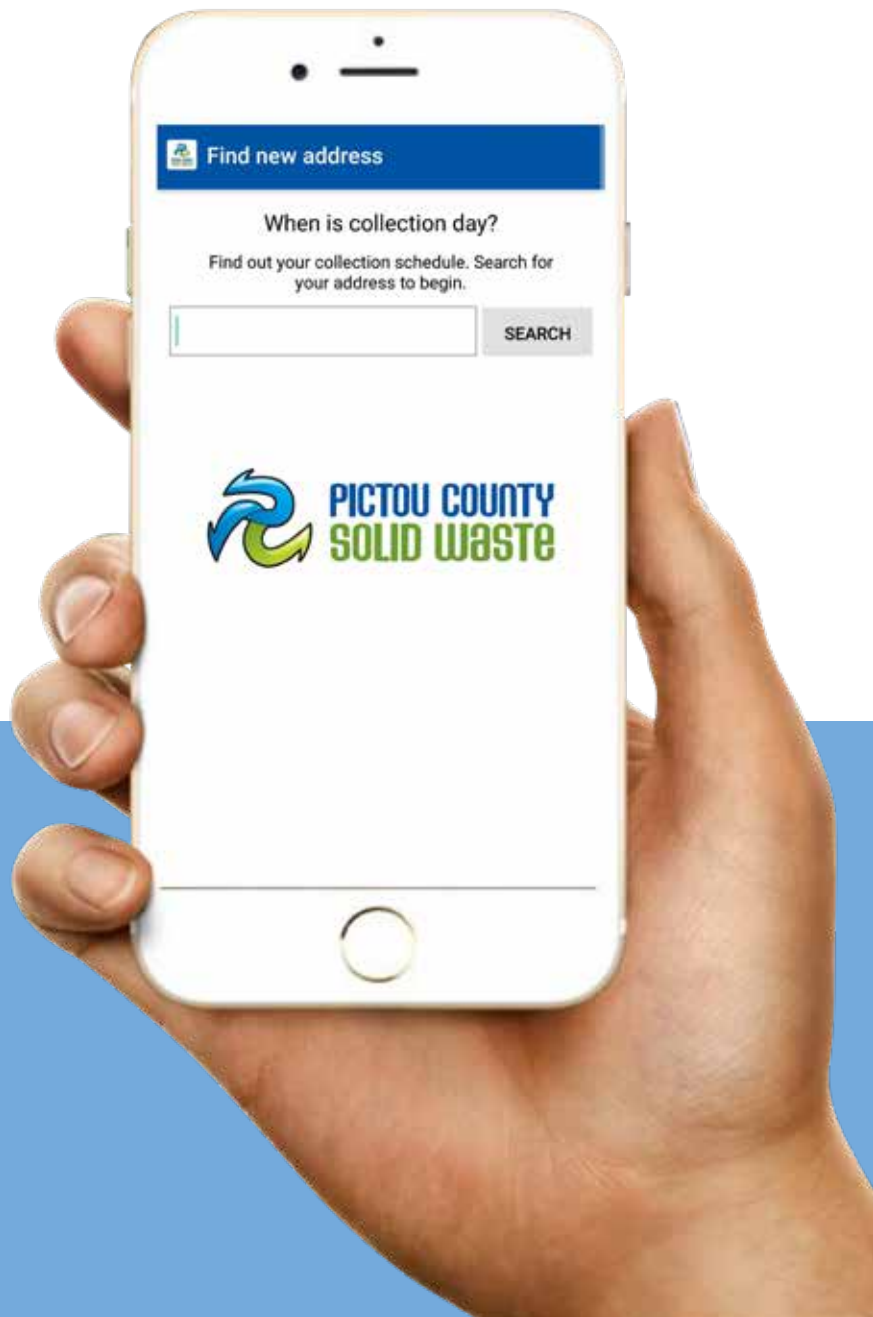
Clean Styrofoam is recyclable (Blue Bag #1). All hot and cold drink cups from fast food chains in Pictou County are compostable. Just remember to recycle the lid

WHAT GOES WHERE

Nova Scotia offers waste management programs which are leading in the country, and Pictou County is proud to offer a robust waste diversion program. For those new to the area, this can often be an overwhelming process, however Pictou County Solid Waste has resources to assist you with that, including a free app that helps you learn what goes where, see your waste collection schedule and set-up reminders about your collection day.

Some items such as tires, paint, electronics, and hazardous household waste are not part of the curbside recycling program, however you can contact PCSW for disposal instructions.

You can also use the app or visit their website to request an organics green cart, report an illegal dumping, view and download sorting guides, or request support for outreach or education for your business or organization.



RELIGION

SPIRITUALITY



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, RIVER JOHN
PHOTO: DAVID CARLSON



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP,
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,
PICTOU LANDING FIRST NATION

FACT

Formally established in 1786,
First Presbyterian Church in
New Glasgow is Pictou County's
oldest congregation



LOCH BROOM LOG CHURCH



PICTOU COUNTY ISLAMIC CENTRE, TRENTON



SALEM UNITED CHURCH, RIVER JOHN
PHOTO: DAVID CARLSON

AND PLACES OF WORSHIP



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH, NEW GLASGOW



SECOND UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH,
NEW GLASGOW

Sacred spaces for prayer and worship are important to communities everywhere. Pictou County is home to many faiths and places of worship of all sizes, all of which welcome new members and visitors alike.

Early settlers landed with few material possessions but a strong work ethic and deep faith. The log church in Loch Broom pays tribute to the first houses of worship; built using traditional methods and tools, the church is open in summer and hosts an annual service acknowledging the legacy of early pioneers.

Today the county is home to an array of faiths and sacred spaces that serve as gathering places for family and friends, old and new. Presbyterian, United, Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic and other Christian churches sit prominently in our town landscapes; village churches dot the hillsides and rural roads, each of them with its own story, all of them the product of local vision and labour.

The Pictou County Council of Churches also demonstrates a level of cooperation and mutual support among the faith community unseen in many other areas.

Our communities are also home to a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and in 2018, we welcomed our first masjid (mosque), a former church now bringing light and life as a house of worship and community gathering space for the local Muslim community.

While the role of churches and places of worship have changed over the centuries, today they remain an integral part of life here in rural Nova Scotia.



PICTOU COUNTY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Situated centrally in the heart of the Atlantic, Pictou County is the perfect place to open, move or expand your business. In an ever-changing global economy, Pictou County offers the business development support and community buy-in needed to grow your business.

REASONS TO DO BUSINESS IN PICTOU COUNTY

- ✓ Central location to Atlantic markets
- ✓ Supportive network to help you develop, launch and grow
- ✓ Community support and a culture of entrepreneurial spirit
- ✓ Export opportunities to US and European markets
- ✓ Low business costs

A PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Pictou County has proven time and time again that we have the resources and connections required to accelerate your business to new heights. Whether you are looking to grow your business locally or around the world, our community partners are here to support your business' success. The robust local economy has major employers in commercial retail, technology, manufacturing, health care, fisheries, tourism, agriculture and the public sector.

We are home to large corporate head offices like Sobeys Inc. and Crombie REIT, as well as large employers like Michelin, MacGregor's Industrial Group, Advocate Printing and Publishing and more. Pictou County is also home to many medium and small-sized businesses with provincial, national and international expertise, exports and connections.

GOT AN IDEA? LOOKING TO MOVE YOUR BUSINESS?

In Pictou County, there are many regional organizations that exist to support and advocate for your business. Looking to connect or collaborate? Let's get you started:

Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network (PCREN)

pictoucounty.com

Your liaison for navigating business and innovation supports and opportunities in the region.

Pictou County Chamber of Commerce (PCCC)

pictouchamber.com

The voice of the business community in Pictou County.

Nova Scotia Business Inc (NSBI)

novascotiabusiness.com/

The province's business development agency.

Ignite | igniteatlantic.com

Nova Scotia's rural innovation hub.

NOBL | noblbusinessskills.ca

Deliverer of government small business development financing programs.

DEANS - Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores

coastalnovascotia.ca

The regional tourism marketing association for Pictou County.

DID YOU KNOW?

The PCCC is home to the ChamberHub – a space to collaborate, connect or rent temporary or short-term office space.



THE MICHELIN PLANT OPENED IN GRANTON IN 1971



JIM FITT,
VELSOFT



TABITHA COLEMAN,
TABITHA + CO



CATHY MUNROE,
BRAMBLE HILL FARM



MICHAEL HARDING,
LATTER DAY POETS CLOTHING

RESOURCES FOR JOB SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS

Nova Scotia Works is part of a province-wide network of employment service centres that are committed to providing inclusive employment services to all Nova Scotians. Career Connections is the Nova Scotia Works office that serve the counties of Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough, and is located at 138 Campbell St., New Glasgow.

Nova Scotia Works offices provide a welcoming atmosphere with access to free employment services. Staff are qualified Certified Career Development Professionals who are knowledgeable, confidential and experienced in assisting both job seekers, and employers.

EMPLOYMENT LANDSCAPE

Pictou County has a vibrant workforce and the skilled labour pool required to launch and grow your business. Potential customer and workforce base has above average income and educational characteristic relative to the Atlantic. Pictou County also has strong immigration supports available to businesses who want to access talent pools from outside the region.

SERVICES FOR EMPLOYERS

They are here to help employers in our community hire people who are the best fit for their organization. Their office has an Employer Engagement Specialist on staff to meet the needs of employers and provide the following free services:

- Free job advertising on their internal job book, Facebook page and website
- Help developing competency-based job descriptions
- Recruitment, referrals, and selection of potential candidates
- Employment maintenance support and retention
- Information on wage subsidy programs, and
- Annual job fair

SERVICE FOR JOB SEEKERS

- Assistance with resumes, cover letters, and interview skills
- Information and referrals to government funded employment programs
- Case management and career counselling
- Access to the latest labour market information
- Free Wi-Fi and accessible computers

In 2019, Nova Scotia Works Career Connections received an Excellence in Employment Services Award from the Nova Scotia Career Development Association. Please visit careerconnections.ca or call them at 1-844-344-1369 for more information.



SHOPPING IN PICTOU COUNTY

Sprinkled throughout our community and our downtown cores are a variety of shops, boutiques and markets, offering curated and carefully selected items, local products, and many services and retail opportunities for all of your shopping needs. All of our downtowns offer free or accessible parking, making shopping a breeze – enjoy a short walk that gives you access to a wide variety of products and services.

HIT THE MALL

The Highland Square Mall on Westville Road, near Trans-Canada Highway Exit 23, houses a variety of big box stores, restaurants, retail stores and services.

LOOKING FOR LOCAL?

Locally made goods and gifts and other Nova Scotia artisans and authors can be found at places like the New Glasgow Farmers' Market, the Green Thumb Farmer's Market or the Whistleberry Market (both located at Exit 20 from the TCH), Water Street Studio and the Water Street Market and Bakery in Pictou, and at Stirlings Farm Market in Blue Acres in Stellarton.

A variety of our corner stores and markets also offer local products, like Crossroads Country Market in Thorburn, or Deb's Hidden Café in Scotsburn. Our museums, like the McCulloch House Museum and The Museum of Industry also have wonderful gift shops. Our hair studios, such as Ahead of Hair in Pictou, and our floral shops McKean's Flowers and Zelda's Flowers in New Glasgow, also offer unique gift ideas or a treat for yourself.

Heading out towards River John? Plan a visit to the Seafoam Lavender Farm, Caldera Distillery, the Lismore Sheep Farm, and Mable Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery.

GROCERY TIME

National retailer Sobeys was founded in Stellarton in 1907 – today there are over 1,547 Sobeys stores and banner stores (plus over 350 fuel locations) across the country. In Pictou County, we have four Sobeys stores in Stellarton, Pictou and one on the East and West Side of New Glasgow, in addition to a Foodland (Sobeys banner) in Westville. Atlantic Superstore, a Loblaws store, is located on Westville Road, and grocery products can also be found in the Walmart Superstore Centre adjacent to the Highland Square Mall. There are also pharmacies located in each of our municipal units.

There are local producers open seasonally including Lakenman's Farm on Bayview Road in Pictou, and Carlson Family Farms in River John.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS: Carlson Family Farms sells mini citrus trees, and they make delicious oat cakes.

NEED SOME NEW ITEMS IN YOUR CLOSET?

There are a variety of retail stores throughout the whole community ready to dress you from head-to-toe, including specialty shoe stores, fine garments and second-hand clothes.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS: Looking for second-hand deals? Head to New Beginnings at Summer Street Industries, Frenchy's on Stellarton Road, or Bubble Tree Baby Boutique in Stellarton for consignment children's' clothes, maternity items and toys.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS

Drop into Grohmann Knives in Pictou for their world-famous, quality knives, and even take a factory tour

LOCAL LOVE – PROUDLY PICTOU COUNTY

Pictou County is hometown proud of the many people, businesses and organizations that find success on provincial, national and international stages. From opera singers, musicians, Stanley Cup winners, Olympians, chefs, politicians, and businesses that have products worldwide, we have much to be proud of. We are so excited for you to get to know your new community, and all it has to offer.



NEW GLASGOW FARMER'S MARKET | PHOTOS: CHRISTINE WHELAN HACHEY

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Many talented artisans live and create here in Pictou County: potters, artists, authors, bakers, chefs and more. In addition, there are many local products – honey, maple syrup, spices, jams, sauces – all made right here (and we know you'll love them.)

SHOP LOCAL The New Glasgow Farmers' Market is open Saturdays on the waterfront in New Glasgow, with special events throughout the year. It's the perfect way to meet some friendly people and get a taste for the community.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Given our balanced lifestyle, affordable cost of living, short local commutes and geographical location, Pictou County is poised to supply products across the province, across the country and even internationally. Read more about our local businesses and opportunities on page 42.

CHEERS TO LOCAL BEER AND SPIRITS

Pictou County is home to breweries like Backstage Brewery in Stellarton and Uncle Leo's in Lyons Brook (they're all good but be sure to try their Ceilidh Ale). Nova Scotia Spirit Co. in Stellarton is home to the famous Blue Lobster vodka. Caldera Distillery in River John offers blended Canadian whisky. Just across the Pictou-Antigonish county line is Steinhart Distillery offering award-winning vodka and gin. Across the Pictou-Colchester county line is Tatamagouche Brewery and Jost Vineyards in Malagash.



FACT

Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act, also known as Bill 59, was passed in April 2017. The legislation aims to make Nova Scotia inclusive and barrier-free by 2030

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY



BRIANNA AND SHERRY



CHYANNE



KATHLEEN



DARRELL



JOE AND ALLISTER



STEPHEN AND JUSTIN



JANE AND JOE

EMBRACING DIVERSITY



SUMMER STREET VENUE



MATTHEW



PAIGE



STEPHEN

Pictou County is home to a wide range of abilities, talents, and diverse backgrounds that all contribute to the vibrancy of our community. Below are some efforts and opportunities to make our communities more accessible to all.

SOBEYS SENSORY SENSITIVE SHOPPING

Across the country, and here locally, Sobeys grocery stores offer 'Sensory Sensitive' shopping times where store lights are dimmed, the music and store announcements are turned off, and staff are encouraged to speak more quietly and not perform certain tasks like gathering grocery carts.

AUTISM NOVA SCOTIA – PICTOU COUNTY CHAPTER

Located in downtown New Glasgow, it is a non-profit charity that provides support, networking and social learning opportunities on living with autism and related disorders. The chapter promotes education about autism, offers service navigation and provides an inclusive, non-judgmental atmosphere where members can participate in rewarding programs and social activities. Email: autismpictoucounty@gmail.com

LET ABILITIES WORK PARTNERSHIP SOCIETY

This group welcomes all abilities collaborating to increase participation of people with disabilities in Pictou County, spearheading projects that bring awareness to accessibility issues. Find the Facebook group for resources and information on special events.

SUMMER STREET INDUSTRIES

With 200 program participants; 70 employees; 2,000 donors; thousands of customers; and a network of partners, Summer Street is a vibrant part of Pictou County. The organization offers a full spectrum of programs and services and is driven by the desire for a community where everyone is treated with fairness and respect – including adults with intellectual disability.

SUMMER STREET'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISES INCLUDE:

- Summer Street Works subcontracting
- On and offsite catering
- Meeting and event space
- Trophies and awards
- Business services

For more information, visit summerstreet.ca



SOCIAL ENTERPRISES and SUPPORTS

Pictou County is proud to be home to social enterprise organizations offering goods and services that create both financial and social returns. Social enterprises add diversity to our Pictou County business community and give everyone an opportunity to support positive change.



LOCATED ON PROVOST STREET IN DOWNTOWN NEW GLASGOW, RIVER RUN CAFE IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY RIVERVIEW HOME

RIVERVIEW HOME CORPORATION

Riverview Home Corporation's River Run Café in downtown New Glasgow sells coffee and baked goods, and hosts paint nights and acoustic shows. The Café provides employment for residents, a space for residents to take part in community life, and revenue to support programs for individuals with intellectual and/or physical disabilities, acquired brain injuries and long-term mental illness. For more information, visit riverviewhome.ca



LOCAL HIGHLIGHT

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Highland Community Residential Services (HCRS) is dedicated to creating an inclusive community with people who have intellectual disabilities and/or mental health challenges.

For more information, visit hcrsweb.ca




Have an idea that needs an engaged and flexible workforce? In Pictou County, we're always open to new ideas and ventures.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN PICTOU COUNTY

Pictou County is fortunate to have so many non-profits, volunteer organizations and advocacy groups working to support those in need. These groups welcome volunteers, donations, or support in any form. We invite you to become familiar with the services offered and get to know the people who work hard, often unseen, to serve our community.

ORGANIZATION NAME	DESCRIPTION
Pictou County Women's Resource and Sexual Assault Centre	Works one-on-one with women and offers resources on a wide range of issues and challenges.
Pictou County Sexual Health Centre	Provides comprehensive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services in a safe, confidential and non-judgmental manner, for people of all ages.
Multicultural Association of Pictou County	Encourages and promotes all aspects of multiculturalism in Pictou County, and hosts community gatherings.
Pictou County Roots for Youth Society	Provides shelter and youth programs for youth ages 16-24
Tearmann Society for Abused Women	Provides safe shelter and supportive counselling services to women and their children who are experiencing abuse.
Pictou County Rainbow Community	Provides a social support network and advocacy for the local 2SLGBTQ+ community.
Pictou West Food Bank and Pictou County Food Bank East	Helps provide food for those in need.
Autism Pictou County	Supports our community of Pictou County and anyone who wishes to learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorder and spreads awareness throughout various public activities.
New Leaf Pictou County	A support group for men in our community who are struggling with their relationships, which could lead to abusive behaviours towards their partner/ex-partner and/or children.
Viola's Place Homeless Shelter	Provides support, shelter and hope to those in need.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pictou County	Mentoring and programming for children and youth ages 6-18.
Pictou County Kids First Family Resource Centre	Delivers free programs and services to families with children ages 0-6 in Pictou County, and also offers prenatal support.
Let Abilities Work Partnership Society	Concentrates its efforts on the inclusion of local persons with disabilities in social and recreational activities to help meet their community social needs.
SchoolsPlus Pictou County	A collaborative interagency approach supporting the whole child and their family with the school as the center of service delivery.
Department of Community Services	Social and economic well-being for all Nova Scotians through child, youth and family supports, income assistance, employment support services, and the disability support program.

Unsure of where to look for help?  Call 211 to help guide you, see more info on page 27.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can visit volunteers.ca to add a profile and search for matches for ways you can give back

GETTING INVOLVED

Sharing your time and talents is one of the best ways to get to know a community and its people.

Pictou County is known for being incredibly philanthropic with our time, energy, and monetary contributions. We're no stranger to a solid fundraiser and doing our best to look after one another, and give what we can.

There are many ways to get involved in the community. Entering a team in a fundraiser, volunteering at an event, joining a board or donating to a cause are all ways to join in and be part of something good.

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED AND SHARE SOME TIME?

Annual events, service clubs, faith communities and churches, and community centres are always seeking volunteers to help with everything from fundraising to maintenance. There are also organizations seeking volunteers to serve vulnerable populations, helping those in need or mentoring a child. You can share your sporting, musical or artistic talents, or be an advocate or ally for underrepresented populations. Whatever you have to share can make a difference.

WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF THERE WAS A LIST OF LOCAL NON-PROFITS? GOOD NEWS, THERE IS

In 2019, *The Pictou Advocate* compiled a list of community organizations with an interactive map and contact information of non-profits and other organizations throughout the county: pictouadvocate.com/2019/12/18/giving/

HOW GREAT AN IMPACT DOES THE LOCAL NON-PROFIT SECTOR MAKE IN PICTOU COUNTY?

In 2019, the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce released the results of a unique study, showing the significant economic and social contributions made by the non-profit sector in the county. The study, which included interviews with 44 local organizations, showed those organizations had total annual operating budgets of nearly \$50 million, employed nearly 900 full-time and part-time persons, with a total annual payroll of just over \$31 million while engaging 1,500 community volunteers annually. The organizations interviewed raise over \$3 million, roughly \$70 per resident in the County.

GIVING BACK IN PICTOU COUNTY

FEELING INSPIRED?

Speak with your coworkers, neighbours, municipal councillor or friends about ways to get involved



DAWN CLEARY, A PICTOU COUNTY CHALLENGER BASEBALL BUDDY, WITH HER ATHLETE, DYLAN
PHOTO SHARED WITH PERMISSION



VOLUNTEERING WITH BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF PICTOU COUNTY IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO GIVE BACK



DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL
PHOTO: BRIAN CAMERON



DRAGON BOAT RACES | PHOTO: TONY DECOSTE

For the young, and the young-at-heart

There are many opportunities for youth in the community to thrive, learn, socialize and grow in Pictou County. For students, there are many activities through sports, music, arts and culture both in the schools and through the community like joining cadets, Junior Achievement, 4H, gymnastics, track and field, bands or choirs. Join a youth group, or hit up one of our skate parks – the possibilities are endless.

For young adults and professionals in the community, there are many opportunities to meet and socialize either through sports like ultimate frisbee, recreational hockey, through the arts community, hiking groups, pickleball, and fitness classes.

Unique to our community is Pulse Pictou County. This network of young adults works to make our community more engaging for the under-40 community. Members organize sporting events like learn to curl, bowling, silent reading, introduction to candidates during elections, business mixers, and more. The group can be found on Facebook, and those new to the community are most welcome to come and meet some new friends and faces in a welcoming atmosphere.

The Dream Candy Organization, located in Stellarton, is a non-profit organization offering programming and special events to help inspire youth to dream big and create lives filled with passion and purpose. Their space is welcoming and inspiring, and the programs even more so.

OFF TO CAMP

Summertime is when many local kids are off to camp – either day camps and programming like ones at our various community centres, run through municipal recreation programs, or overnight camps like Camp Geddie (Ponds) and Big Cove YMCA Camp (Sutherland's River). There are also opportunities for day camps at St. Francis Xavier University, such as coding and science camps.





WILLIAM M. SOBEY INDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX, STELLARTON



BIG COVE YMCA CAMP



ULTIMATE FRISBEE



HIGHLAND DERBY DOLLS, KICKIN' VIXENS



LOCAL LINGO

In Pictou County we have our own way of saying things sometimes. These interesting phrases may puzzle scholars but are close to our hearts, endearing terms that have been used for generations. Here is a sample of our local dictionary:

Slippy

Poor, icy or slippery road conditions

The Outdoor

A very Pictou County-specific term referring to the Emergency Department at the Aberdeen Hospital

Brown Sauce

Our famous Pictou County pizza sauce, which is brown in colour and delicious

Sobeys bag

Any one-use plastic grocery bag, regardless of brand

Maritimer

Those living in the provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick

'Magine

'Imagine' without the 'I', said to convey 'unbelievable'

Bed lunch

A snack you have before going to sleep, also known as a bedtime snack

Uptown, downtown, over town or going up town

"Going up/into town" is often used for those who live in the more rural areas of Pictou County, and refers to heading in to town for shopping or errands. Uptown, downtown, and over town are more directional advice, and usually depend on which way you're facing

"Beside the old _____"

Pictonians often give directions by affectionately referring to landmarks of places that used to be there, like the "old post office". If you're new to the community, it may be helpful to clarify specific addresses or descriptions. Many people will also give directions in minutes versus the number of kilometers

Back Street/Front Street

Refers to the two main streets in downtown New Glasgow, Provost Street (Front Street) and Archimedes Street (Back Street)

Old mall/new mall

Pictou County used to have the Aberdeen Mall, which is now the Aberdeen Business Centre, located on East River Road, and was referred to as the "old mall". The "new mall" refers to the current Highland Square Mall, which opened in 1981

Double-double

A Canadian term used when ordering a Tim Horton's coffee (otherwise known as a Timmie's) with two cream and two sugar. You can guess what a four-by-four must be

SENIOR LIVING



Some Pictou County families have lived here for generations. Others moved here as children or young adults, fell in love, and stayed. Among our newcomers are those choosing to retire here, close to our beautiful beaches, activities and services. Everyone contributes to the collective fabric that makes this community so special.

PICTOU COUNTY SENIORS FESTIVAL

An annual event hosted in Trenton, where hundreds of seniors enjoy a weekend filled with activities, entertainment, delicious meals and good company. Events include bowling, darts, washer toss, a social and a dance, and a barbeque.

SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES

Pickleball, squash, tennis, Nordic walking, Tai Chi and other sports are available through municipal and private services.

PICTOU COUNTY COUNCIL OF SENIORS (aka SENIORS OUTREACH)

Seniors Outreach is available to all seniors and their caregivers. Phone 902-752-8400

for help with lawn care, home maintenance, snow removal, respite for caregivers, financial assistance, and any other needed support. Also available is assistance with filling out paperwork/forms in collaboration with the local housing authority.

CONTINUING CARE

Glen Haven Manor, Valley View Villa, Ivey's Terrace, High Crest Place, Odd Fellows Home, Shiretown Nursing Home and others provide our seniors with the care and level of living support they need.

VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES (VON) AND MEALS ON WHEELS

For well over a century, the VON has been helping people live in their homes and communities by delivering the caring support that they and their families need.

Meals on Wheels has volunteers deliver hot and nutritious meals to clients in need.

GETTING SOCIAL IN THE COMMUNITY

There are a variety of seniors' clubs in the community including 55-Plus Club, New Glasgow; New Horizons Seniors Club, Pictou; Steeltown Friendly Group, Trenton; Stellarite Seniors Club, Stellarton and the Westville Heritage Group, Westville. These groups provide opportunities for seniors to come together, socialize, and participate in a variety of activities such as cards, darts, line dancing, chair exercises and much more. Additionally, there are groups in smaller, rural communities as well such as Hopewell, that meet regularly either through a formalized group, or through their community centres for a variety of events. A popular event is seniors lunches, where you receive a meal and the opportunity to learn from speakers on a variety of topics.



GLEN HAVEN MANOR, NEW GLASGOW

TIP FROM THE LOCALS

You can enjoy walking on the indoor track at the Pictou County Wellness Centre around the Bell Aliant arena, no membership required.

DID YOU KNOW? Many of our municipal units work together on age-friendly strategies, supporting inclusive and accessible communities for all ages now and for generations to come.

LOCAL HIGHLIGHT We suggest visiting Lansdowne Outdoor Recreational Park (LORDA) in Lansdowne (1480 NS-289), providing outdoor recreational activities to senior and disabled persons. Fish in their stocked pools, enjoy the beautiful scenery, and taste the maple syrup that is tapped and bottled on site.

NEWCOMER SERVICES AND SPONSORSHIP

Pictou County has become home to many newcomers arriving from countries around the world. Whether folks are immigrating to Canada for an employment opportunity or being resettled as refugees, Pictou County has a number of community groups and activities to serve newcomers.

Local employers take pride in going above and beyond to ensure any newcomer employees – and their families – are made to feel welcome in the workplace and beyond. As well, Pictou County has gained a reputation for its active role in sponsoring refugees. There are three

local groups in the area: Westville Warm Hearts, CAiRN (Pictou), and Pictou County Safe Harbour. The three groups have been active since 2016, and altogether have resettled more than 75 individuals from Syria, Iraq, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The groups are made up of community members who volunteer their time to support the welcoming and integration within the County. Volunteering with a sponsorship group is a great way to get involved and meet others, while helping newcomers find their way.

In addition, The YREACH program is offered locally through the Halifax YMCA, the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth, serving all refugees and immigrants in the area. YREACH works with local partners to create welcoming communities and have staff in multiple smaller centres across the province. They provide in-person settlement and integration support to newcomers, in addition to formalized language instruction that is offered at no cost. Their other services include community orientation, social events and recreation activities, school settlement, advocacy and referrals to outside agencies.



To learn more about any one of these initiatives or to get involved, please contact info@pcsafeharbour.ca

IMMIGRATION

RIGHT: THE LUJEMA FAMILY ENJOYS THEIR FIRST SNOWSHOEING EXPERIENCE IN CANADA.

BELOW: PICTOU COUNTY SAFE HARBOUR MEMBERS AND REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP SUPPORTERS CELEBRATE THE ALMETHYB FAMILY'S MILESTONE OF ONE YEAR IN BUSINESS AT MAPLE CEDAR, THE SYRIAN KITCHEN.



DID YOU KNOW?

The local Multicultural Association has members from more than 27 countries



INTRODUCING THE PICTOU – ANTIGONISH REGIONAL LIBRARY (PARL)

The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) has seven library branches and a Books-by-Mail service for rural library patrons. PARL's seven branches are located in the downtown areas of Antigonish, New Glasgow, Trenton, Stellarton, Westville, Pictou and the village of River John.

Library cards are available for free at any of the branch locations, by phoning the Library Headquarters toll-free at 1-866-779-7761, or online at parl.ns.ca.

FIVE FUN LIBRARY FACTS

- You can borrow up to 50 items (including up to six DVDs) at a time
- Overdue fines are just 20¢ per day up to a total of \$2 per item. If you are 65 years or older, there are no overdue fines at all
- The Regional Library offers 120+ free library programs per month, in addition to partnering with many community groups for special events. Check out the PARLEvents calendar on their website
- Library rooms are also available free of charge for use by the community (not-for-profit purposes) and when not in use by the library. For more details, please inquire at your local library
- The typical borrowing period is three weeks for each item, unless it is a special item, like the Fun Fit Passes which give you temporary access to select fitness facilities, or to things like snowshoes



TRY IT OUT

Light Therapy Lamps are available in a cozy corner to help chase away the seasonal blues

DID YOU KNOW?

The library is print accessible.

They have access to the CELA and NNELS collections for patrons with print disabilities. PARL also has a community-funded program to loan accessible reading devices on long-term (when available). If interested, contact the Books-By-Mail service at Regional Library Headquarters.

GET ONLINE WITH PARL

Online with your library card you can access language training and digital magazines, download eBooks and Audiobooks, and more. You can even log in to Ancestry.ca. At the New Glasgow Library, explore the Pictou County Roots Society, the Heritage Room and meet the Heritage and Reference Library Clerk. Learn more on page 82, Museums and History Buffs.

LOOKING FOR A NEW BOOK, AUTHOR TO READ OR A RESEARCH TOPIC?

Check out the online Readers Café for some helpful tips or drop by the library – they love to talk about books. Wondering what is going on in the local area, or other programs and services? Feel free to drop by and chat with their friendly staff. Each library carries copies of our local newspapers, and has a Community Bulletin Board. They also have the Newcomers Welcome Centre online navigator tool to help those new to the area.



**Pictou-Antigonish
Regional Library**

MORE THAN BOOKS

The libraries offer free public access computers, and for a small fee: access to printers, faxing, scanners and some 3D printers (in the Makerspaces in New Glasgow, Westville, River John and Antigonish).

They have jigsaw puzzles, PLAY Packs (kits with books and play equipment), Nordic Walking Poles, Walkabout pedometers, GPS, Autism Sensory Play Kits (Autism tools – Fidget, Sensory, Visual kits) – all free to borrow with your library card. In addition, each of the libraries has LEGOs, wooden blocks, and board games for you to drop-in and enjoy.

THE LITERARY SCENE IN PICTOU COUNTY

Nova Scotia in general, and Pictou County in particular, have been inspiring authors for generations. Our rich tapestry of scenery, history and storytelling cultures continues to call and nurture writers of all stages and genres. Giller Prize winner Johanna Skibsrud spent her early years here. Beloved children's author Sheree Fitch lives here: her Mable Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery has helped turn the active little community of River John into a summertime destination for fans and book lovers alike.

River John is also home to the annual Read by the Sea, one of the largest literary festivals of its kind in Canada. Each July, the festival draws top literary talent from throughout the region and across the country who, along with thousands of participants, take part in such events as WordPlay, a literary festival for children of all ages; PageTurners, which supports local book clubs; WordStock, a series of literary games and events at venues throughout River John and Pitch the Publisher, where hopefuls can share their ideas or manuscripts for feedback and a chance at a publishing contract.

Preservation and promotion of Pictou County's past and people have inspired a legion of non-fiction authors. Clyde MacDonald, a retired judge, has released more than a dozen books showcasing historical photos, court cases, and stories of murder most foul. Bill McTague has authored a series of local ghost stories. John Ashton in his research and writing unearthed the lost village of Raymondville and brought to light dozens of local folks who left home and found their fortunes on the world stages, screens, boardrooms and history books. Monica Graham is a prolific author of history and inspirational books.

Writers of all aspirations continue to find words, support and audiences. Mary Sheehan, a retired nurse, realized her childhood dream and released her first book at 82-years-old.

The group Pictou County Writers, New and Experienced continues to welcome a growing number of aspiring poets and writers of short fiction, novels and memoir. To celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary, the group created the anthology *Where Pines and Maples Grow*, with member stories inspired by 'home.' Places like Pictou Island and our mainland coastal villages draw annual writing retreats for groups and individuals finding and replenishing their creativity.

WHERE TO FIND LOCAL READS

Cole's Book Store at the Highland Square Mall, and gift shops throughout the community such as Maple Murple's Book Shoppe and Dreamery (River John), the McCulloch House Museum and Hector Heritage Quay, Waterstreet Studio (Pictou), and the Museum of Industry (Stellarton), or borrow them from the library.

LOOKING TO DO SOME WRITING YOURSELF?

The library offers a variety of resources such as writing guides and links to useful tools. Simply visit their site below, and check out more local authors and those in neighbouring Antigonish.
parl.ns.ca/resources/writers.php



MABLE MURPLE'S BOOK SHOPPE AND DREAMERY | PHOTO: JOEL COCK

WHERE TO FIND LOCAL NEWS

Here we have a variety of news sources for you to access local, provincial, national and international news.

While the internet offers endless options for information, it's always nice to know where to find local news and community events.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

The Pictou Advocate

Pictou County's Weekly since 1893

pictouadvocate.com

A vibrant, fresh weekly publication focusing on events that matter most to its readers, containing 100 per cent local copy.

SaltWire (formerly *The News*)

The SaltWire Network, an Atlantic Canada news source, is available at saltwire.com/pictoucounty

LOCAL RADIO STATIONS

Mix 94.1FM

Today's Best Variety

Z97.9 FM

Classic Rock

Other stations are accessible here including:

989XFM Antigonish,

100.9FM Big Dog Truro,

99.5 Cat Country Truro,

89.5FM CBC Radio, and

many others.

Some communities, organizations and municipal units also offer newsletters providing community updates and events, though aren't considered your traditional sources of news.

PROVINCIAL NEWS SOURCES

The Chronicle Herald

(print and online)

A daily provincial paper that offers breaking news, sports, entertainment, business, and national news.

AllNovaScotia.com

(online only)

Daily business and political news in the region.

INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, AND LOCAL NEWS

(online and television)

CBC News

CTV News

Global News

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

The Globe and Mail

(daily, online)

The National Post

(daily, online and print)

Want to explore what life is like here? Check out our local publication, *At Home on the North Shore*, also known as *ah!* a quarterly lifestyle magazine created right here in Pictou County.



DOLLARS AND CENTS

BANKING IN PICTOU COUNTY

Setting up a bank account or finding a local branch is an important step prior to or once you arrive in your new community. Pictou County has a variety of options to serve your banking needs. There are also ATM/ABMs, and cashback options located throughout the community.

NEW GLASGOW

BMO Bank of Montreal

99 Provost St., New Glasgow 902-752-5440

CIBC

162 Provost St., New Glasgow 902-752-2573

East Coast Credit Union

175 Victoria St., New Glasgow 902-752-3102

RBC

91 Provost St., New Glasgow 902-755-7700

Scotiabank

126 Provost St., New Glasgow 902-755-6161

TD Canada Trust

156 Riverside Pkwy., New Glasgow 902-755-0068

PICTOU

RBC Royal Bank

25 Water St., Pictou 902-485-4352

Scotiabank

70 Coleraine St., Pictou 902-485-4378

STELLARTON

RBC Royal Bank

254 S. Foord St., Stellarton 902-752-1523

Scotiabank

289 S Foord St., Stellarton 902-755-1306

WESTVILLE

RBC Royal Bank

1813 N Main St., Westville 902-396-4121

Scotiabank

1804 Main St., Westville 902-396-4175

TAXES

SALES TAX

In Nova Scotia, a sales tax called 'HST' (Harmonized sales tax) is charged on most goods and services, combines a federal Goods and Service Tax (GST) and the Provincial Sales Tax (PST).

NEW TO CANADA? Sales tax is not shown on the price tag of an item, but is added to the cost when you pay for it, or receive your bill.

INCOME TAXES

All residents must submit annual income tax returns to the Canada Revenue Agency. Need some help? There are a variety of corporate and independent accounting firms in Pictou County to help you, if required.

You must file your income tax returns by **APRIL 30TH**, every year, to ensure that you will not incur interest or penalties.

PROPERTY TAXES

Tax rates are determined by each municipal unit – all property owners pay residential taxes. There is a separate business and corporate tax rates for businesses. There is also a separate charge for property owners for utilities such as sewer, water, and waste, which you can read more about on page 37.

FACT: Rural county residents may use well water and individual septic systems, rather than town-supplied water and sewer.

Climate Change Action

Climate change is already impacting individuals and communities around the world, and is expected to have a significant impact on Canadians throughout the twenty first century. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, with impacts ranging from more frequent and severe storms, to extreme heat events, flooding, and an increase in the range of vector borne diseases. Climate change requires urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote community resilience.

Despite the global nature of this issue, impacts will be experienced locally in communities across Nova Scotia. Fortunately, the actions needed to tackle climate change are also taking place at the community level.

Together we can advance climate action in our community, create new jobs, improve health and well-being, and save money.

LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE ACTION FROM THE TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW

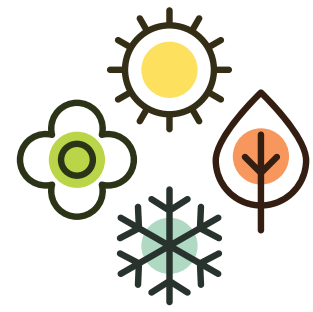
The Town of New Glasgow is committed to ambitious climate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy use, transportation, and waste, while supporting adaptation measures to increase our adaptive capacity. They're also prioritizing emission reductions through the addition of renewable energy, optimizing energy efficiency in homes and businesses, and promoting active transportation. Using less energy to drive our vehicles and power our homes, provides cost savings to individuals while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Nova Scotia is a leader in addressing climate change, with one of the most aggressive emission reduction targets in Canada, and significant progress to date in transitioning to renewable energy and implementing adaptation measures to protect coastlines. The emission reduction target is 53% below 2005 levels by 2030.

RACHEL MITCHELL,
OUR COMMUNITY'S
FIRST CLIMATE
CHANGE
COORDINATOR,
A NEWLY CREATED
POSITION WITH
THE TOWN OF
NEW GLASGOW

Efficiency Nova Scotia offers programs and rebates to increase your home's energy efficiency and comfort while saving you money. Rebates on solar equipment can make home solar more affordable and gives you more control over your energy future, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.





WEATHER AND THE SEASONS

They say in Nova Scotia, “If you don’t like the weather, just wait a minute and it will change.”

Hot summers, crisp falls, cold (but often beautiful) winters, and fresh springs.

Here are some things to help you prepare for each of the seasons in Pictou County:



OUTDOOR SKATING IS A POPULAR ACTIVITY IN WINTER

Pictou County Weather	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Annual average temperatures	14 °C to 25 °C (57 °F to 77 °F)	5 °C to 20 °C (41 °F to 68 °F)	–9 °C to 0 °C (16 °F to 32 °F)	From 1 °C to 17 °C (34 °F to 63 °F)
Description	Our summers can be very hot – that’s why we love our beaches so much	Cozy up with a walk and enjoy the fall colours	Enjoy outdoor sports and the beautiful snow cover	We get excited when things thaw, and we see signs of new growth
Attire	Light clothing, shorts, sandals and sun protection (hat, sunglasses and sunscreen)	Light boots, pants and jeans, sweaters and light jackets for layers, or a vest.	Warm coat and boots, sweaters and layers, warm socks and hats, mittens or gloves and scarves	Waterproof jacket and shoes, light sweaters and coats
Favourite activities	Head to your favourite beach, splash pad or pool	Hike on our trails and enjoy the beautiful fall colours	Skiing, sledding, snowshoe, skating (indoor or one of our many outdoor rinks) and snowmobiling	Running or walking, gardening
Be prepared for	High UV rates even when it’s cloudy – wear your sunscreen or cover up	Flash freezing or black ice can happen in fall – check the weather before venturing out	Snowstorms – make sure you always keep a scraper or snow brush in your car, and have your winter tires on	Flooding can happen in some areas – be especially mindful when out exploring and snow is melting

FACT 109.8 average inches of snow
falls in Pictou County per year.
(Don't worry, that's not all at once)



RACHEL DICKSON
READY FOR SPRING,
ENJOYING SOME
PUDDLE JUMPING



PHOTO: TOURISM NOVA SCOTIA



FALL ALONG THE SAMSON TRAIL IN NEW GLASGOW

Check out page 86 for ideas
for day trips or page 74
to learn about our outdoor
opportunities, so you can
soak up as much of our
(great) weather as you can.

Snow cancellations

Snow or icy conditions can often impact schooling, work and extra-curricular activities. The local radio station is a great resource for being up-to-date on cancellations.

We are proud of our communities
and we welcome our guests to
experience what we get
to live every day

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Visit coastalnovascotia.ca for details on local events and festival



PICTOU-NORTH COLCHESTER EXHIBITION | PHOTO: THE PICTOU ADVOCATE



THE JUBE – NEW GLASGOW MUSIC JUBILEE | PHOTO: TOURISM NOVA SCOTIA

An exciting selection of varied and year-round events in Pictou County may well be one of Nova Scotia's best-kept secrets. Steeped in cultural richness, Pictou County is waiting to welcome you to the "Birthplace of New Scotland" and is always looking for reasons to celebrate. From the skirl of the bagpipes to celebrations of art, food, and music, the County is host to events of all shapes and sizes. Whether your tastes lean towards cultural performances, sporting events, or anything in between, we have something for you to enjoy most weeks of the year. Our performing arts centres at Glasgow Square Theatre and the deCoste Performing Arts Centre are year-round venues that offer a wide variety of entertainment for the whole family. Many towns and small communities in Pictou County host a homecoming at some point throughout the year where past residents come home to rekindle friendships and to welcome visitors to live like a local. We are also home to premier sporting facilities that have the capacity to host events from regional tournaments to national and international championships. If you want a parade or a car show we have those, too. A beer garden or a golf tournament? We host it! No matter your taste, we've got you covered. Keep an eye out for our signature spring and summer events: enjoy succulent local lobster while wandering the waterfront at the Pictou Lobster Carnival; listen to world-class musicians at the multi-day outdoor New Glasgow Music Jubilee; stop to take in Westville's Canada Day events, one of the longest standing celebrations in Nova Scotia; bring the family to the Trenton Funfest, dedicated to honouring the Steeltown's history, or Stellarton's Homecoming, which lauds old-fashioned family fun; or be welcomed and experience Pictou Landing First Nation's traditional annual Mawio'mi. We are proud of our communities and we welcome our guests to experience the north shore lifestyle we get to enjoy every day.



DECOSTE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE



PINTY'S GRAND SLAM OF CURLING EVENT | PHOTO: BARBARA RAYMONT



FESTIVAL OF THE TARTANS | PHOTO: STEVE SMITH



COOKED LOBSTER



PICTOU LANDING MAWIO'MI | PHOTO: BRIAN CAMERON

FOOD AND FLAVOURS



1800 is the average number of visitors to the Saturday New Glasgow Farmer's Market during peak season

PHOTO: CHRISTINE WHELAN HACHEY



TIP FROM THE LOCALS

We recommend giving local Knoydart Cheese a try. They are the only grass-fed, organic dairy farm in the Maritimes. Available at the New Glasgow Farmers' Market, Whistleberry Market (Alma), and Sobeys Aberdeen (New Glasgow). You can also visit the cheese house in Knoydart.

PICTOU
COUNTY
PIZZA



DID YOU KNOW?

You can check out local produce, livestock and other products from right here in Pictou County?

Visit <https://pictou-county-farms-pictoucounty.hub.arcgis.com/>



THE KILTIED CHEF ALAIN BOSSÉ IS ALWAYS COOKING UP SOMETHING NOVA SCOTIAN IN THE KITCHEN | PHOTO: TOURISM NOVA SCOTIA



Ask about the best pizza and everyone has a hometown favourite, but here in Pictou County, we have something unique to brag about. You must try pizza with BROWN SAUCE.

Whether you're a foodie, a budding chef, or just plain hungry, a large and tasty asset in Pictou County is the variety of culinary options.

From Syrian to Japanese, Chinese to Korean, traditional diner foods to high-end options, pre-made meals catering to specialty diets, our foods are found in canteens, burger shacks, pubs and cafés, and don't forget: some of the freshest seafood you won't find anywhere else.

Our local farmers and producers bring to our table local meats, vegetables, cheeses, soups, sauces, honey and baked goods. Check out where you can find some of our local goods on page 44.

You won't be here long before being offered, or being asked about, Pictou County pizza – a moniker given to the regionally distinct brown sauce pizza. There are several local restaurants that serve pizza with brown sauce including Alice's Pizza (Blue Acres), Sam's Pizza (Stellarton, Trenton), Acropole (Westville, New Glasgow, Pictou), and Pictou County Pizza (Abercrombie). Both Sam's Pizza and Pictou County Pizza also sell this local delicacy (the sauce, not the pizza) by the jar, offering the perfect souvenir, or a taste of home for those who live away. Pizzas themselves have been shipped across the country to satisfy cravings for that unique taste of home.

Pictou County pizza is often served in large, thick slices and pairs well with donair sauce – a delicious, creamy sweet condiment used for topping or dipping.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS There are traditional red-sauced pizzas available here, too.

THE OCEAN IS CALLING YOUR NAME

In Nova Scotia, no matter where you are, you're never more than 67 kilometers from the ocean, and in Pictou County, you're even closer.

In summer along the Northumberland Shore, you'll find some of the warmest salt water north of the Carolinas, making our beaches the perfect place to swim, walk, search for shells, relax with your feet in the sand or snap that perfect photo of sunrise or sunset. In winter, a brisk walk along the beach (bundled up of course) can be a great way to get fresh air. On rare occasions, when the temperatures are cold enough, you can even skate on the ocean, and our ponds.

PROVINCIAL BEACHES AND PARKS

Check out the list of our local beaches and parks (with some local tips) on page 75.

OTHER WATERWAYS

Enjoy many year-round waterways by exploring one of our lakes, rivers or streams. Whether dipping your toes in the cool water or trying your hand at catching supper, you will enjoy the opportunities that come with living near the water. Many of our walking trails have water nearby with places like the Samson Trail in downtown New Glasgow, the Jitney Trail in Pictou, the Hopewell Footbridge (one of the last wooden footbridges in Canada) or Trenton Park.



MELMERBY BEACH | PHOTO: ANGELA TURNER

A favourite activity is hunting for beach glass, pieces of broken bottles that have been etched and worn smooth by the waves then washed ashore. People love finding these treasures, and the added challenge of finding unique colours, shapes and sizes.





BIG ISLAND | PHOTO: JOEL COCK

Interested in conservation and water activities? Connect with the Pictou County Rivers Association



PHOTO: DR. GERRY FARRELL



RUSHTON'S BEACH | PHOTO: BRIAN CAMERON



MIDDLE RIVER | PHOTO: LIZ WILSON



LOOKING TO CRACK A LOBSTER?

Settin' Day (the first day of lobster season) typically falls in mid-spring, so many of us are able to enjoy the first feed of the season by Mother's Day weekend.



TONEY RIVER WHARF | PHOTO: DR. GERRY FARRELL



FUN ON THE WATER

In the summer, Pictou County boaters and watercraft enthusiasts come out to play. Boats of all kinds, kayaks, paddle boards, canoes and jet skis can be seen gracing our waterways – there are even cardboard boat races as part of local events, such as the annual Merigomish Family Fest.

WHARVES, MARINAS AND LAUNCHES

There are two municipally owned and operated marinas: one in downtown New Glasgow, and the Hector Quay Visitors Marina in downtown Pictou. The largest marina in our area is the privately run Pictou Marina, located at the mouth of Pictou Harbour. The marina houses a service repair facility and is home to the Pictou Yacht Club which supports recreational sailing and yachting.

There are a variety of other wharves, private and small non-motorized watercraft launches throughout the community including Caribou (where the PEI ferry is located), Pictou Landing, Cape John and Toney River. There are several local retailers serving all of your nautical needs.

MUST-SEE EVENT The modified boat races in the Pictou Harbour as part of the Pictou Lobster Carnival never disappoint.

STAYING SAFE ON THE WATER

Water safety is an important part of life in a coastal community. It's always important to be prepared when heading out on the water, either on a watercraft or for a swim. This includes wearing a proper personal flotation device and following the rules of the waterways. As well, being informed about swimming in the ocean and what to do in the event of a rip tide is an essential piece of enjoying a dip in the ocean.

DID YOU KNOW? You can take lifesaving courses at the YMCA of Pictou County and the Pictou Fisheries Training pool.

FISHING IN PICTOU COUNTY

For decades, commercial fishing has been one of the primary industries in Pictou County, offering some of the freshest seafood – from mackerel and salmon, to scallops, mussels, lobster and more.

Sport fishing is also a popular activity in Pictou County, with our waters offering some of the most sought-after sportfish – from brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, Atlantic salmon and striped bass. You can enjoy fly fishing, spin fishing and ice fishing.

LICENSED AND READY TO FISH

Anyone 16 years of age and older requires a licence for fresh-water fishing. Licences can be purchased from vendors in the community or through Access Nova Scotia. You do not need a licence to fish in tidal or salt water in Nova Scotia. However, you must respect Canadian federal and provincial fishing seasons, bag limits and gear restrictions.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS



SNOWSHOEING IN TRENTON PARK | PHOTO: CRYSTAL MURRAY



ABERCROMBIE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB | PHOTO: MICHELE SMITH



PHOTO: BOB MACEACHERN

Our largest playground here in Pictou County is the great outdoors with adventures and experiences to suit all activity levels and lifestyles.

Playgrounds, swimming, skate parks, and trails for walking, biking, hiking, running, skiing, Nordic walking and snowshoeing – you name it, we have places for it in our natural playground. Plus, we have snowmobiling, outdoor gym equipment, splash pads, golfing, boating, horseback riding and much more, all ready and waiting for you to take in.

HIT THE TRAILS

For a full list of our incredible network of trails visit highlandconnect.ca, or check out the Pictou County Trails Association on Facebook, that organizes activities like guided hikes and trail builds.

HEAD OUT FOR A BIKE RIDE

Pictou County is cycle-friendly, with a large network of cycling routes and groups. You can take a leisurely cycle on our roads or trails, or connect with local cycling groups to push yourself and find some cycling pals.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS We recommend checking in with Pictou County Cycle on Westville Road, or with the Pictou County Y Tri-Club for fun-focused fitness training for triathlons.

When you're exploring the outdoors, make sure to respect our natural habitat and wildlife. Learn more about local animals and tips on page 76.

PROVINCIAL PARKS AND BEACHES

TIP FROM THE LOCALS

There's a fresh water spring in Greenhill where you can fill up your water bottles (use at your own discretion)

We're fortunate to have access to an array of beautiful provincial parks managed and maintained by the Province of Nova Scotia, ensuring that important natural areas continue to thrive. Here are some of these treasured locations in our community:

BIG ISLAND BEACH

A beautiful drive and lovely beach that's usually not too busy. Located down the road a bit is Lismore Beach – a sandy sanctuary and well-loved local spot.

GREENHILL PROVINCIAL PARK

Stunning views and peaceful surroundings. We asked locals to name the best place to snap a photo in Pictou county, and this was the #1 spot. (See more snap-worthy spots on page 84.)

MELMERBY BEACH (aka THE MERB)

A gorgeous 2-kilometre beach with boardwalk access. Supervision and change houses/washrooms are available during July and August.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS There is a great community-maintained trail called Roy's Island, located at the end of the Merb's third parking lot.

RUSHTONS BEACH

A gem on the cusp of the Pictou County and Cumberland-Colchester line which includes picnic grounds, toilets and change facilities.

CARIBOU/MUNROE'S ISLAND

Beautiful beach, great for swimming, a nice walk and nearby hiking. Co-located with a campground and close to the PEI ferry.

WATERSIDE BEACH

Boardwalk access with a smaller but less crowded beach and warm waters.

POWELL'S POINT

Rock and sandy beach, not ideal for swimming but great for exploring and kayaking – it has a small spot for a boat launch. Lots of spots to enjoy a picnic.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS If you go at the right time, you can look for starfish.

SALTSPRINGS PROVINCIAL PARK

Enjoy the lush greenery, and a picnic along the beautiful West River.

NEIGHBOURING FAVOURITE: ARISAIG

Explore rock cliffs, waterfalls, head for a swim, enjoy nature, the beautiful walking trails, unique rock formations and look-offs.

To explore amenities, more photos and learn about other provincial parks in Nova Scotia visit parks.novascotia.ca

Our local parks also offer a variety of activities, some with playgrounds, picnic tables and benches, and lots of places to relax and enjoy the outdoors:

- Acadia Park, Westville
- Allan Park, Stellarton
- Bissell Memorial Park, River John
- Broidy Park Playground, Pictou
- Carmichael Park, New Glasgow
- Colonel Dan Sutherland Memorial Park, River John
- Goodman Rotary Park, New Glasgow
- Iona Park, Hopewell
- Laurie Peace Park, New Glasgow
- Trenton Park, Trenton
- Westray Miners Memorial Park, New Glasgow



SALTSPRINGS PROVINCIAL PARK | PHOTO: JOEL COCK



JITNEY TRAIL, PICTOU

WILDLIFE AND FURRY FRIENDS

Nova Scotia, including Pictou County, is home to a wide variety of wildlife and species. While we enjoy the natural wonders and the wildlife, animals in the wild can sometimes be a nuisance, or a safety concern, especially when encroaching in more urban settings and around homes.

You need to be especially cautious of deer, raccoons and other small animals that are known to dart out in front of vehicles. You may notice deer crossing signs in areas where deer are known to be. If you're exploring the outdoors, it's important to familiarize yourself with the wildlife, plants, and safe hiking procedures.



PHOTO: HEIDI SINCLAIR

NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTRY

The Department of Lands and Forestry has broad responsibilities relative to the development, management, conservation and protection of forest, mineral, parks and wildlife resources and the administration of the province's Crown land.

You can learn more about our wildlife, biodiversity, ecosystems and habitats, the law, permits and regulations (i.e., for hunting) and more at novascotia.ca/natr.



PHOTO: ANGELA TURNER

To report
wildlife concerns, call
1-800-565-2224



OUT FOR A STROLL WITH YOUR PUP?

Please ensure that you're respecting the leash policies and picking up after your pet

YOUR FURRY FRIENDS

For many people, pets are a part of their family, and finding a caring veterinary clinic can be an important part of settling into a new community.

Animal lovers fear not: we have a variety of wonderful clinics with caring staff, ready to help you with all of your furry, feathered or cold-blooded friends' needs.

ANIMAL HOSPITALS AND VETERINARY CLINICS

- **Abercrombie Animal Hospital** 902-928-2877
807 Abercrombie Rd., New Glasgow
- **East River Animal Hospital** 902-752-6655
200 Terra Cotta Dr., New Glasgow
- **New Glasgow Veterinary Clinic** 902-752-4277
319 Stellarton Rd., New Glasgow
- **Pictou Veterinary Clinic** 902-485-2000
206 High St., Pictou

RESCUE, PET ADOPTION AND ANIMAL WELFARE/ADVOCACY

- **Nova Scotia SPCA, Pictou Shelter** 902-396-3595
3504 Granton Abercrombie Rd., New Glasgow
pictou@spcans.ca
- **CARMA Cat Rescue Maritimes** 782-233-2287
Pictou County Chapter
carma.pictou@gmail.com
- **EarthARC Animal Respite Centre** 902-301-5410
644 Heron Rd., Four Mile Brook, Scotsburn

PHOTO: JOEL COCK

SPORTS AND RECREATION

We love sports in Pictou County: competing, playing or watching. Locals joke that if you invent a sport here, you'd not only fill a team but have enough community support to start a league.

School-led sport leagues and programming in the community allow for sporting and recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.

We have traditional sports like basketball, soccer, hockey, skating, softball, baseball, inclusive programming like Pictou County Challenger Baseball, sledge hockey, lacrosse, and swimming lessons through Autism Pictou County. We have a wonderful Special Olympics program, equestrian opportunities, curling (and even learn-to-curl events), rugby, and even mini rugby for the little ones.

If you're looking to get active there are a variety of traditional gyms, private gym studios and fitness classes, classes offered through municipalities such as chair yoga, or try laughter yoga through the library. There's even hot yoga, tai chi, martial arts, dance studios and classes, archery, roller derby, a gymnastics club and ultimate frisbee.

Join a cycling group, or take a leisurely cycle on one of our trails, join the triathlete club or a 'Try a Tri' club, play a few rounds at our golf courses, or give Pickleball a try – a newer sport that's been growing in our community. Want to hit the slopes? Wentworth Ski hill is just an hour away.

We have an extensive network of trails and parks, which you can learn more about on page 75.

TOO MUCH CHOICE?

We think that's a good thing. One way to narrow down your options, or find out how to register, who to connect with, or how to find a trail or a studio, visit highlandconnect.ca. This website offers a robust online database for everything related to recreation, leisure and physical activity in the region.

MUNICIPAL RECREATION

A fun way to find groups, explore a new activity or give a new sport a try is to connect with our local municipal recreation departments which offer a variety of programming throughout the entire year.

ACTIVE PICTOU COUNTY

A partnership among five municipalities, Active Pictou County was created to educate and motivate all citizens to increase their daily physical activity in an effort to create a happier, healthier and active community. They assist with a variety of projects that promote physical activity on a regional level; such as after-school programs, trail development, active transportation and improving access to programs and services.

Pictou County Lightning Basketball Association, founded in 2013, works collaboratively with school basketball programs and provides an opportunity for youth to learn and play basketball.

Pictou County Athletics provides coaching and support for track and field, and has hosted many meets and events at their home at the Pioneer Coal Field located in Stellarton.

In November 2019, the Pictou County Wellness Centre was the successful host of the 2019 Pictou's Grand Slam of Curling, which brought thousands of athletes and visitors from all over the world.



WEEKS CRUSHERS



MELMERBY TRIATHLON | PHOTO: BOB MACEACHERN

THE PICTOU COUNTY WELLNESS CENTRE



The Pictou County Wellness Centre is a \$37-million, fully accessible sport and recreation complex, located at Exit 23 in Pictou County. Opened in 2012, the centre features two NHL-sized rinks. The Sobeys Arena seats 1,650 plus standing room for 240. Overlooking the ice surface are three full-service VIP suites that provide premium entertainment spaces. Adjacent is the Bell Aliant arena which seats 144 with standing room for another 100 people and is co-located with the Dr. Johnny Miles Williston indoor walking track – a popular way to stay active away from the

elements. The Sobeys Arena has an ice covering, allowing for major events such as the Pictou County Home Show, graduations, large corporate events and concerts.

The Pictou County Wellness Centre is also home to the YMCA of Pictou County which offers child care, a gymnasium, a fitness centre, change rooms and showers, and a magnificent pool area featuring a large, 25-metre swimming pool, and a smaller therapeutic pool with a lazy river that can be used for rehabilitation, exercise, or for fun. There is a steam room and hot tub as well. All spaces are

fully-accessible with chair lifts, and water wheel chairs are available. For more information on YMCA programming and events, please visit pcymca.ca.

Located on the second level of the facility are three community rooms with versatile setup options that accommodate all types and sizes of events from small meetings of a dozen people, to a packed house presentation of 500. Services include fully-integrated audio/visual and on-site catering.

For more information on events, programming and opportunities, visit pcwellnesscentre.ca

ARTS AND CULTURE

Rich in art, music and culture, Pictou County boasts incredibly talented artisans and performers who not only share their talents locally but some have gone on to national and even international spotlights.

Take in a show or a performance in Pictou at the **deCoste Performing Arts Centre** or in New Glasgow at **Glasgow Square Theatre**. Check out **Art at Night**, a unique event where the streets of downtown New Glasgow are shut down for local artists, performers and artisans to showcase their talents at this annual celebration of art, community and culture. Downtown New Glasgow closes to traffic so pedestrians can stroll leisurely to see all varieties of art and performance, put on display by community members.

Get connected with creative minds by joining **Creative Pictou County**, a united voice working to promote and support arts and artists in Pictou County. Craft groups like the **Little Harbour Hookers** (rug hooking), and **Thistle Quilt Guild** in Westville not only showcase their talented creations, but also bring people together to share their common passions. You can find displays of locally created art throughout the community, whether in competition at the **Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition**, or locally at the **New Glasgow Farmers' Market** with vendors from across the county featuring artisans like Denise Lynch, who makes stunning pottery creations) or Janet Wallace who uses her paintbrush to capture colour, community, and advocacy with every stroke.

Musical talent is limitless in Pictou County, with a long tradition of strong music programs in the school systems, run by

incredibly talented teachers, as well as opportunities to join band, choir or musical theatre. There are community productions and live theatre performances like the annual **Lismore Dinner Theatre** and the Pictou County Women's Resource and Sexual Assault Centre's *Slut: The Play*. The Pictou Rotary Club's annual musical brings beloved shows to sold-out crowds at the deCoste Centre each spring.

LOOKING TO LEARN OR PLAY?

There are teachers throughout the community providing lessons such as **Centre for Music on Summit**, or many out of their homes and in their living rooms. No matter your preferred style, there are skilled teachers for students of classical, jazz, rock, musical theatre and even the bagpipes.

An incredible showcase of local talent can be enjoyed during the **New Glasgow Music Festival** which is the longest-running music festival in Canada, or enjoy First Nation drumming and dancing at **Pictou Landing First Nation's annual Mawio'mi**.

We have dance studios and private classes from ballet, to modern dancing, line dancing and more at places like **Morrell Dance Company**, **Ashlei Ballet** and **Miss Carla's Dance**. Enjoy the thunderous sounds of African drumming and dancing at a workshop at our local library, or feel the beat of the drums and the sounds of the bagpipes during a parade, practice or performance from **Na Gaisgich Pipe and Drum Band** or **Pictou County Pipes and Drums**.

Join or catch a performance of the talented Pictou County Community Orchestra. Find them on Facebook





LOCAL FIDDLER, AMELIA PARKER



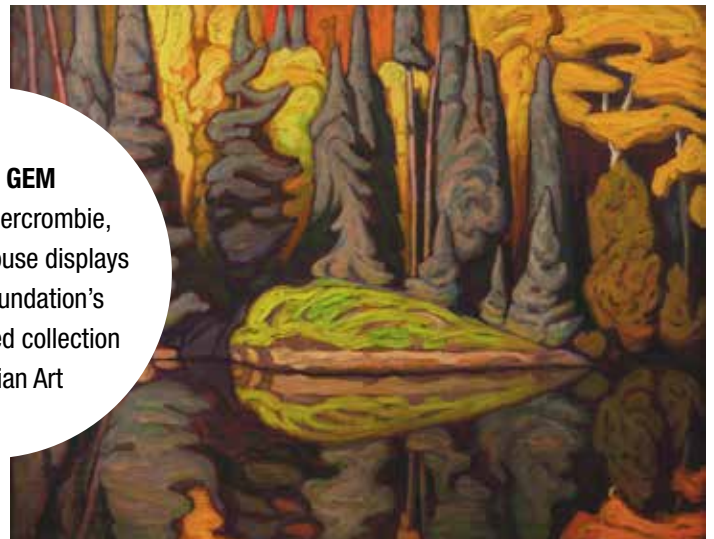
MARTIN CERAMIC



PICTOU COUNTY PLAYLIST

We invite you to check out these musicians and artists who are either from, or have a connection to Pictou County. Maybe someday we will see you on this list!

Dave Gunning	The Kitchen Criminals
JP Cormier	Pictou County Pop
John 'Spyder' MacDonald	Classics
Marcel d'Entremont	MacKeel
Doris Mason	The Stanfields
Alert the Medic	George Canyon
Wintersleep	JD Fortune
The Strange Valentines	Sandbox
Leah and Kyle – The Collective	



CROMBIE HOUSE | GROUP OF SEVEN | LAWREN HARRIS | LAKE REFLECTIONS



AFRICAN DRUMMING CIRCLE AT GLASGOW SQUARE

FOR MUSEUM ENTHUSIASTS AND HISTORY BUFFS



HECTOR HERITAGE QUAY | TOWN OF PICTOU | PHOTO: DR. GERRY FARRELL

FACT

The No. 2 Construction Battalion, first established at the Market Wharf in Pictou, Nova Scotia, was Canada's first and only all-Black battalion, and included soldiers from across Canada.

LOCAL INTEREST

The Pictou County Roots Society is a local organization that assists the public in genealogical research and preserving historical records



MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY, STELLARTON

Often considered the heart of New Scotland, Pictou County is rich in Scottish heritage. Explore the county to appreciate the many influences Scots have had on this area. Stops should include the Hector Heritage Quay, McCulloch House Museum and Genealogy Centre, Carmichael-Stewart House Museum, Pictou County Roots Room, the Culloden Memorial Cairn, the Loch Broom Church, the Ship *Betsey* historical kiosk, and enjoy the Scottish architecture of the sandstone buildings of Pictou.

Of equal significance in shaping this place is our rich industrial heritage – discover the role Pictou County's coal, iron and steel played in developing Nova Scotia and Canada with a visit to the Nova Scotia Museum of Industry, or head to Trenton to learn more about our rail and steelmaking ties at the monument on Main Street or at the Trenton Heritage Room. Next, head to Stellarton to visit the Miners' Monument or by walking the Samson-Albion walking trail – the route of the first railroad in British North America to use iron rails. Look for baby lobsters at the Northumberland Fisheries Museum in Pictou, and let interpretive kiosks throughout the countryside immerse you in the details of historic community events. Don't forget about the Barney's River Station School House, a pre-confederation one-room schoolhouse converted into a Museum and archives for Barney's River and area.

Lest we forget the significance of Pictonians in the military, a visit to the Pictou County Military Museum and our many war memorials attest to our courage and commitment. For athletic achievement, check out the Pictou County Sports Hall of Fame, and visit the Africentric Heritage Park which commemorates the past, focuses on the present and provides a foundation for the cultural future of Nova Scotians of African descent.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS

If you Google "Historical kiosks Pictou County", it takes you to a Google map showing where they are located.



AFRICENTRIC HERITAGE PARK, VALE ROAD, NEW GLASGOW

PHOTO-WORTHY SPOTS IN PICTOU COUNTY



With our sprawling natural landscapes, picturesque downtowns, and rich history – we have tons of beautiful backdrops to snap the perfect photo. Whether you're looking to take family photos or the perfect selfie, there are lots of places to get out and explore our community.

We recently asked members of the community where the perfect spot in Pictou County is to snap a pic.

Aspiring, budding or experienced photographer in Pictou County? We have the perfect group for you.

MEET SNAPS – THE SCOTSBURN NORTHUMBERLAND AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY

A welcoming group of photographers in our area, who share and celebrate their work, and learn and grow with one another through their passion of photography. The group is active online with sharing and looking for feedback, but also meet monthly for meetings and photography outings. Search 'SNAPS' on Facebook or ask around to get connected with this group.



MELMERBY BEACH | PHOTO: ANGIE TURNER

1 LOCAL PROVINCIAL BEACHES AND PARKS Read all about our provincials parks on page 75. BONUS: Roy's Island Trail – At Melmerby Beach, offering a short, relatively flat hike that leads you to a beautiful seascape backdrop.

2 PUBLIC ART AND MURALS Graffiti flowers on Dalhousie Street and the Canada 150 mural by artists Gordon MacDonald and Sage MacLeod on Archimedes Street were commissioned in a partnership with the Town of New Glasgow and local business person Jamie MacGillivray. BONUS: There are three more murals in downtown New Glasgow: on the corner of Glasgow and MacLean Street; under the overpass on MacLean Street, and at the pathway for the George Street Bridge along the Samson Trail.

3 TRENTON PARK Year-round beauty and a popular spot for family photos and prom pictures

4 SHIP HECTOR AND THE PICTOU WATERFRONT The brightly coloured buildings along the waterfront give the perfect coastal backdrop.

5 PICTOU LODGE BEACHFRONT RESORT You might have wildlife photo bomb your pic.

6 LOCAL TRAILS The Samson Trail and Carmichael Park (New Glasgow), the Jitney Trail (Pictou), and Acadia Park are beautiful for natural backdrops.

7 SWINGING BRIDGE IN HOPEWELL Originally built in the 1800s and then restored in 1991, it is one of the last surviving foot bridges in North America.

8 FROM A BOAT ON THE NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT No boat? No problem. Snap a pic from the PEI ferry or on the M/V Cetacean Search with Pictou Island Charters

9 SEAFOAM LAVENDER FARM Rows and rows of beautiful lavender. Please visit the shop first to enjoy their products, and learn more about the property.

10 LOCAL MARINAS AND WHARVES Postcard perfect: Toney River Wharf, Pictou Marina, New Glasgow Marina. BONUS: Enjoy a nice drive to find the Caribou Lighthouse, which is also visible from the PEI ferry when you're on it.

11 SCOTSBURN, FITZPATRICK MOUNTAIN AND SMITH ROCK CHALETs Beautiful woods backdrops, and views stretching kilometers

12 PARK FALLS A beautiful waterfall landscape (Please use extreme caution when exploring this area which can be very dangerous).

13 RIVER JOHN On the waterfront or along Cape John for the perfect water backdrop.

Note: Please ensure to respect private property, be respectful of shared and public spaces, and exercise caution when exploring.



GREENHILL LOOK-OFF | PHOTO: ANGIE TURNER



SEAFOAM LAVENDER FARM

DAY TRIPS

Pictou County is uniquely situated providing quick access to some of the most exciting and beautiful places in Canada.

There are lots of opportunities just outside our county borders offering the perfect day trip.

HIT THE ROAD

Enjoy the drive along the **Sunrise Trail** through Toney River, Seafoam and River John and head to Tatamagouche – a thriving small village, with big offerings. Enjoy their main street landscape with shops, a museum and **Tatamagouche Brewery**, serving local brews in a fun space. Tatamagouche is where you can ‘cheers’ some brews and dance at the annual **Oktoberfest**, a popular fall event. Further along, you’ll stumble upon **Jost Winery** in Malagash, and **Fox Harb’r** with its luxury golf resort located in Wallace. Finally the trail leads to **Amherst**, a beautiful historical town, bordering with New Brunswick.

HEADING TO THE ISLAND (aka, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND)

With Northumberland Ferries wharf located in Caribou, a trip to beautiful Prince Edward Island is a common one for families here. You can drive your car onto the ferry, or

walk-on and have someone pick you up on the other side enjoying a 75-minute ferry crossing. There’s also the option of taking the **Confederation Bridge** located between New Brunswick and PEI. One day, three provinces.

TIP FROM THE LOCALS Take the ferry over in the morning and take the bridge at your leisure to come home.

ARISAIG

Approximately seven minutes past the county line along Highway 245 (40-minutes from New Glasgow), is the community of Arisaig, which has one of our beautiful Provincial Parks, a stunning beach and scenic wharf, and **Steinhart Distillery** offering award-winning spirits. Keep driving and you will find **Cape George Lighthouse** where on a clear day you can see panoramic views all the way to Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island.

ANTIGONISH

For the scenic route, you can continue along the 245 or take the Trans-Canada Highway to the Town of Antigonish. The beautiful small town offers one of the most eye-catching downtowns in the province with shops, restaurants and lots of sights to see, including the campus of **St. Francis Xavier University**.



THE ICONIC PEGGY'S COVE LIGHT HOUSE



SHERBROOKE VILLAGE

TIP FROM THE LOCALS

You'll often hear people simply say "The City," which means Halifax, our province's capital

Nearby is **Keppoch Mountain**, a revitalized former ski hill offering a non-motorized, multi-use wilderness trail system, with on-site cabin, and a variety of events year-round.

EXPLORE THE HUB OF NOVA SCOTIA

Truro is just 40-minutes from New Glasgow, and many locals enjoy popping over for dinner, shopping or exploring **Victoria Park** – a 3,000-acre woodland park located in the centre of Truro. In the fall, we recommend a visit to **Riverbreeze Farm Market**. Enjoy trails, maple syrup and products at **Sugar Moon Farms**. View the **tidal bore** on the Salmon River, a phenomenon where the tide rushes up from the Bay of Fundy, causing a wave that can vary from a ripple to several feet in height. **The Bay of Fundy boasts the highest tides in the world**, where the height of the tide can reach an incredible 16 meters (53 feet). Venture to **Masstown Market** just outside of Truro for local goods. We recommend the fish n' chips at **Catch of the Bay Fresh Fish Market** at the on-site Fish and Chip Boat.

PLAN A TRIP INTO THE CITY

There is lots of learning and exploring to be had in Halifax, Nova Scotia's capital city including **The Discovery Centre**, **The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic**, **The Museum of Natural History** and **The Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia** (Cherry Brook, HRM).



HALIFAX | THE OLD CLOCK BUILDING

EXPLORE SHERBROOKE AND OUR EASTERN SHORE

Sherbrooke Village is a real treasure, depicting a typical Nova Scotia village from 1860 to pre-World War I. Love history? Enjoy a drive along our beautiful Eastern Shore and visit **Memory Lane Heritage Village**, an award-winning living history museum depicting coastal rural life in Nova Scotia during the 1940s. We recommend nearby **Clam Harbour Beach**, and especially the annual **Sand Castle Festival**.

If you're looking for a National Park, **Canso Islands National Historic Site** is located in Guysborough County and commemorates the significant role the fishery played in international commerce in the early 1700s. Visit the ruins of the 18th-century fortifications and then explore the interpretive trail system.

GOING A LITTLE BIT FURTHER

For travelling purposes Nova Scotia has seven distinct regions that each have their own appeal: Yarmouth and Acadian Shores, South Shore and Digby, Bay of Fundy and Annapolis Valley, our province's capital Halifax, Eastern Shore and Cape Breton.

MUST-SEE: Rated as one of North America's best islands, plan to drive and explore the **Cabot Trail** on Cape Breton Island. To plan a trip or for more information, please visit novascotia.com.



CAP-ROUGE, CAPE BRETON | CABOT TRAIL

PICTOU COUNTY BUCKET LIST

In Pictou County we are incredibly fortunate to have so many activities, events and opportunities right here in our own back yard.

We asked locals, “What’s one thing you haven’t tried in Pictou County that you want to?”

You might be inspired to start checking these off your own Pictou County bucket list.

BROWN SAUCE PIZZA

A Pictou County staple – we have something unique to brag about. Read more on page 69.

SAILING

A fantastic way to enjoy the water – check out page 72 to learn more about our wharves and marinas for your chance to hit the waters.

LEARN HOW TO SWIM AT THE YMCA

They offer lessons for children and adults.

PULSE PICTOU COUNTY ACTIVITIES AND GET TOGETHERS

A network of young people working to help our community thrive through social, community, professional development, athletics and wellness initiatives.

CAMPING ON PICTOU ISLAND

Check out Pictou Island Wooden Tents for a unique experience.

ART CLASSES We have many incredible local artists, many of whom offer classes and workshops for the aspiring artist. Check out Creative Pictou County to join others from the arts community.

DANCE CLASSES

There are dance studios, programs and classes for all ages and abilities.

VISIT A U-PICK

Enjoy selecting your own strawberries or pumpkins.

SNOWSHOEING

We have lots of trails for snowshoes and cross-country skis. No equipment? No problem. You can borrow equipment from our local libraries and municipal recreation programs.

NEW GLASGOW FARMERS’ MARKET EVENTS

Aside from our treasured Saturday mornings at the market, the New Glasgow Farmers’ Market also hosts a variety of events.

KAYAKING

We have many waterways and spaces to launch non-motorized watercraft and enjoy a paddle.

JOHNNY MILES RUNNING EVENTS

Pictou County has renowned running events and running groups for all skill levels.

NORTHUMBERFEST AT PICTOU LODGE BEACH RESORT

An amazing annual event at Pictou Lodge Beachfront Resort featuring local brews and musicians.

HIT THE TENNIS COURTS

Programming is offered through the towns of New Glasgow, Stellarton and Pictou.

VIRTUAL REALITY

Transport yourself to all kinds of places – right from downtown Stellarton.

HIT THE GREENS! Check out our indoor and outdoor mini-putt and golf courses to take a stroke or two off your score.

FUNTOPIA

A local indoor playground for children up to age 12. Parents/guardians can relax in the lounge area and enjoy a coffee and a treat while the kids play.

EXPLORE FINE DINING

Grab the Nova Scotia's Northumberland Shore Guide from DEANS and use that to organize your own culinary adventure.

CURLING Pictou County has four curling clubs, hosting both competitive and recreational curling: Westville Curling Club, Bluenose in New Glasgow, The Stellar in Stellarton, and New Caledonian in Pictou.

PICKLEBALL

A popular paddleball sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis – lots of options throughout the community to try it.

TRAVEL MORE OF THE SIDE ROADS

If you get lost, stop and ask for directions, we're known to be friendly people.

HIKING AND WALKING TRAILS Visit the website novascotiatrails.cioc.ca, search the 'Highland Region' community, and see page 78 for more details on ways to get active outside.

LOBSTER FISHING

A must-do experience as part of the Northumberland Strait lifestyle and one of our major industries.

YOGA

Chair yoga, hot yoga, laughter yoga, goat yoga, puppy yoga – we have it.

LOCAL BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

Head out for a local pub crawl (make sure to have a designated driver) and enjoy our local spirits, craft brews and cocktails.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Pictou County has lots of opportunities for recreational and competitive horseback riding.

GHOST WALK

Check out Pictou Ghost Walks on Facebook for some spooky and paranormal opportunities.

WHAT'S PLAYING?

Enjoy a movie at the Highland Drive-In Theatre

THANK YOU



PICTOU ISLAND | PHOTO: JOEL COCK

This document was prepared for the community, by the community, and we'd like to take the time to thank everyone who offered contributions and efforts in any way. We hope that what you read in this publication is what you'll experience from this community.

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As noted throughout the entire document, we'd like to thank our local photographers for capturing the essence of what makes our community so special, and helped bring the document to life.

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We hope you enjoy the content, the stories and information as much as you enjoy your new community, its people, and your new home.



TOP 10 GREAT THINGS ABOUT PICTOU COUNTY

1 Safe
communities

5 Welcoming
and collegial
people

2 Affordable
cost of living

6 Year-
round indoor
and outdoor
recreation,
events and
activities

9 Close
to airports,
ferries and
neighbouring
provinces

3 Great
schools and
passionate
educators

7 Fresh
seafood and
a variety of
cuisines

4 Special
supports for
families with
special needs

8 Opportunities for
youth employment
and recreation

10 A sprawling
coastline with the
warmest salt water
north of the Carolinas