

Warden, Deputy Warden and Council,

My name is Michelle Anthony and I grew up in Shubenacadie in the 1960s-1980s. My own father was a WWII veteran, who served on The Wasaga Mine Sweeper, and my mother's father, my grandfather, fought in France in The Great War, he was subjected to mustard gas as well was shot in the neck. The shrapnel remained in his neck because of its close proximity to his jugular...this caused him to fall asleep instantly at any given moment. I guess I tell you these things because I believe with every fibre in my soul that people who fight for freedom are all heroes. As a younger person, I can remember walking past the cenotaph and almost every time, thinking about my grandfather and all the veterans who fought and all the horrors they witnessed. The pride I feel for anyone willing to fight for my freedom is overwhelming and while residents can go out to the legion for Remembrance Day services, the history has been tainted, because we will no longer stand on the same ground that those young men stood on before saying good-bye to their loved ones. I cannot begin to tell you the feeling that came over me as I saw the photo online of our cenotaph loaded on the back of a truck, being relocated to the legion. I am sure many of you were entertained by the communication going on between Councillor MacPhee, the residents of East Hants and the president of the Legion Mike Chapman. To say some of us were upset is an understatement.

As you know, the residents of Shubenacadie were never consulted and so the move was a shock. We cannot understand how the municipality could allow this? The social media posts on EHWTK, were understandably heated. Most Canadians honour our military, and indeed our war veterans... I was; and am, gut punched. In today's climate of unrest, how could someone decide that moving a cenotaph out of its intended spot in the centre of the community be best for everyone? The ground where the cenotaph stood for 104 years SHOULD be a historic site...the soil on which our boys last touch home ground; many, never to see home again.

The conversations on facebook, the conversations by phone and the conversations through email, have not clarified what so many Shubenacadie residents want to know... Who made the decision to move OUR cenotaph? Does this move set a precedent that the municipality can just relocate any community's monuments? Councillor MacPhee stated several times that the cenotaph was never going to be moved. He then says that the Legion president asked to have the cenotaph moved out to the legion. The president of the legion then denies that by stating on EHWTK ' "The Legion was told it was going to be moved regardless the Legion chose to protect it and move it to the Legion." ' Still, councillor MacPhee argued that it was not the municipality who wanted it moved..."it was never going to be moved."

We have tried to get answers, but no one wants to admit their mistake (and make no mistake, this was so very wrong). Who initiated the removal of our cenotaph and who from council voted in favour of moving our history?

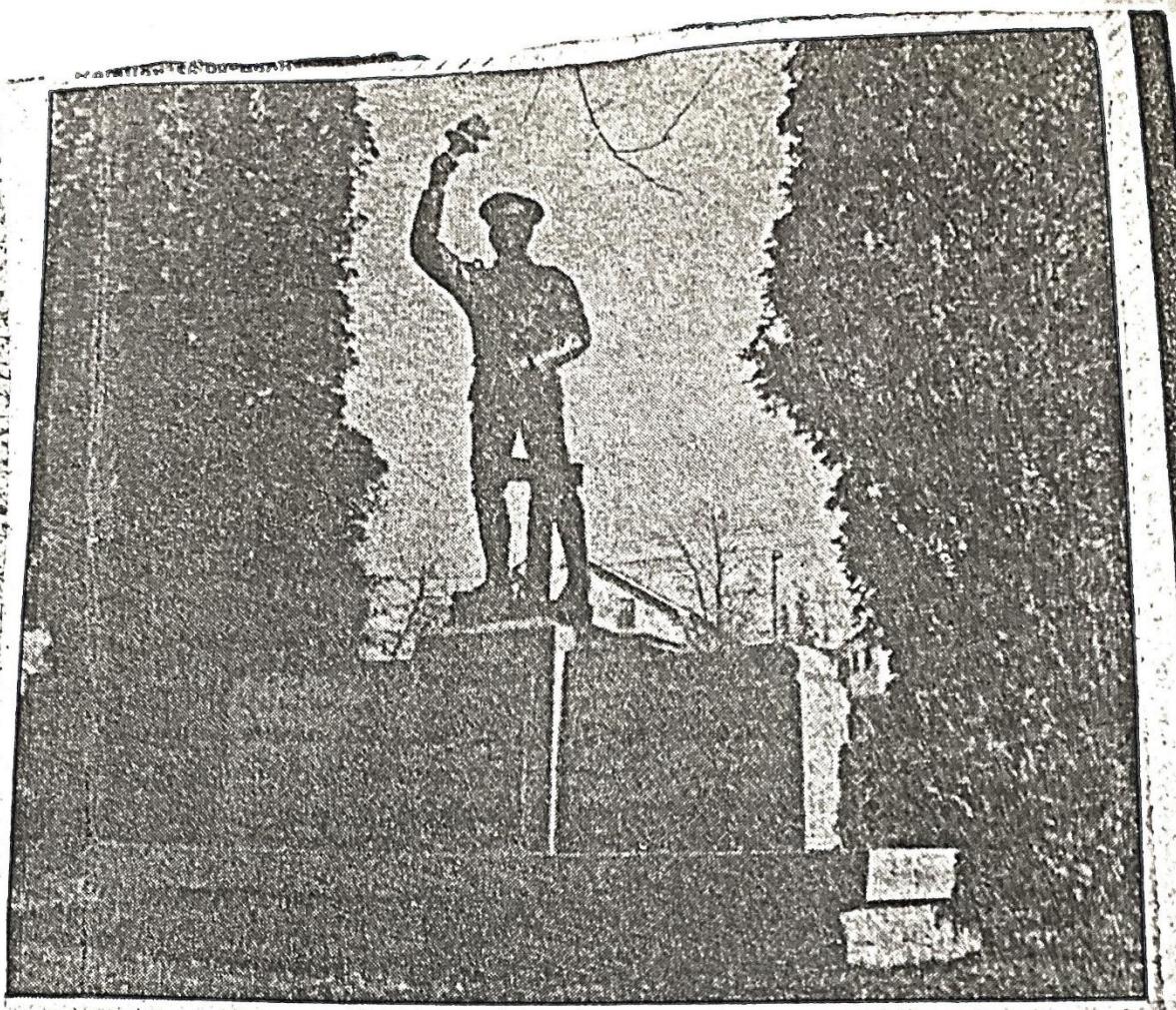
Do I sound dramatic? I hope so! I am furious over this... this is my reason.



This is William Roland Robb. In my home, we knew him as Billy and he was my father's first cousin. Billy and dad were more like brothers, as my father's own dad died when dad was 6 years old. Dad, his younger brother, and his mother were shuffled between dad's mother's family and dad's father's family. So, you see, they often grew up under the same roof. Billy was one year older than dad and by dad's stories, Billy was a real dare devil. If there was a thrill to be had, Billy was ready for it. Billy was a great athlete, playing both ball and hockey in the community. Having the spirit of adventure in him, Billy joined the RCAF and learned to pilot airplanes. He was a test pilot for the Hawker Hurricane and also the Tiger Moth. Billy died in his plane on Sept 09, 1942. His body did not come home. Billy is buried in England. His mother Jenny Robb (Sheehy) would never have a physical cemetery to visit. In order for her to get some semblance of peace, it was the Cenotaph, in the middle of the community, where she would walk and visit. How many tears from other families were shed on that site? How many people over the years, would make the trip to honour their loved ones right there in the centre of Shubenacadie? Moving our soldier from the village's core is an insult and a wound that won't soon be forgotten. While the legion seems like the "best move," I can assure you, any move would not be acceptable. While it looks "fine" at the legion, I am appalled that our soldier no longer faces the road. I maintain...our monument, with its history in time, (being one of the first cenotaph's erected in Canada) is special. It looked majestic and proud between the cedars and amongst the shrubs. That "esthetic" will never be replaced on concrete...and our history is being disregarded simply by the move.

Each of the names of that cenotaph has a story, and each of those names walked the grounds where upon they boarded a train to go off and fight for us. This is the one and only reason I stand before you all today and ask that the cenotaph be brought back to its original location. So much could have been done to "fix up" the location, but I can't help but wonder if this was not done to create room for developers? While I support efforts to renew Shubie, this spot should remain the focal point of the core. If that land is levelled for parking space; how many vehicles would fit? I say no more than 4. You have moved a piece of EAST HANTS history for the sake of a few vehicles. There has to be a different way. With respect, please... bring the cenotaph back.

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Lest we forget

L. By Gretchen Dawe

SHUBENACADIE: In 1921, land was leased near the railway by a committee, chaired by Watson Smith, who was interested in erecting a monument to Shubenacadie's war dead. They raised \$5000. for a bronze statue of a Canadian soldier who holds a torch high, standing on a granite

base.

On July 1, 1922, a huge crowd gathered for the unveiling. J.C. Gass presided, school children sang and a band played.

Reverend Upham offered prayers and the mother of Shubenacadie's first war casualty, Haliburton Wallace, removed the Union Jack for the unveiling. Mrs.

W. Duff laid wreaths in memory of her son.

Since 1962, the Shubenacadie Legion has taken responsibility for the memorial and every year since that day in 1922, Shubenacadie has remembered its 19 dead heroes from that war so many years ago and the five more recent casualties of World War II.

SHUBENACADIE VILLAGE CORE PARKING

C24(346)

October

C24(347)

October

C24(348)

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C24(349)

October

On motion of Councillor Garden-Cole and Deputy Warden Greene:

Moved (later tabled) that Council approve the proposed site concept plan and direct staff to engage the services of a professional engineer to design the Shubenacadie Village Core parking; and Direct staff to add the cost of construction of the parking area to the 2025/2026 draft budget.

Discussion ensued. Councillor MacPhee advised that the Shubenacadie Legion will send a letter to Council asking that Council consider relocating the cenotaph and the oak tree from where they currently are to the Legion property, which may result in a change to the design concept.

On motion of Councillors MacPhee and Tingley:

Move to table Motion C23(346).

MOTION TABLED



Facebook

🔒 www.easthants.ca

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THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH NO. 111

P.O. BOX 115
SHUBENACADIE, N.S.
B0N 2H0



Carl

Sorry for getting this out late. We, the Shubenacadie Legion, heard that there was talk of moving the cenotaph. This was to facilitate expanding the parking area. If this is going to happen, the legion executive has discussed this and is recommending that if it, the cenotaph, has to be moved, can it please be moved to the Legion property and placed between the flag pole and the notice sign facing the school. This would allow Remembrance Day ceremonies to take place without hindering the traffic on the main hwy. 2 road.

For your consideration

Michael Chapman

Michael Chapman

President

Shubenacadie Legion Branch 111

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