

To : East Hants Municipal Council and all concerned,

During the World Wars 24 young men, fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, friends left Shubenacadie to fight for freedom. They never came home. The last place they set foot on home soil was when they boarded the the CNR train to take them to Halifax to board ships to head over seas. 24 young men from such a small village , everyone would have been touched by this.

The families of these young men had no grave site to visit. In 1921 the families and community fund raised \$5000 to have a cenotaph erected on land provided by CNR. A large sum of money in those early days. Land over looking the small village, facing the main through fare traveled by everyone passing from Truro through to Halifax. A small grassy hill where family , friends and anyone passing through could pay there respects and reflect on the ultimate sacrifice. This is documented as if not the first, definately one of the first such cenotaphs to be erected. While no bodies are buried there it was treated with reverence and respect.

There the monument stood for 104 years until May of this year. With no prior notice to citizens of Shubenacadie or relatives and ancestors of those named on the monument it was moved. The first we knew was when our soldier was spotted on the back of a flat deck truck headed out the Mill Village Rd.

Who made this decision? This is the question we can't seem to get an answer to? The Legion where it was moved to has gone on a CBC radio interview saying they did not initiate the move and really have no feeling either way as to where the cenotaph is. It's no secret that our local legion has been struggling financially the past few years. Our soldier may end up in front of a derelict building with his behind facing the village he so proudly looked over for 104 years.

The official statement from Municipality is it was moved after discussions with several groups , who are these groups? We can't find them. Also stated it was to make room for a parking lot to rejuvenate the village core.

This is a piece of history that was moved. Perhaps better to have followed a municipal plan from 2011 when it was proposed to enhance the park, add benches and make the cenotaph a focal point of the community? Add some placards and promote for tourism in connection with the Tin Smith Museum.

Harry Smith was one of the original people involved in getting the monument built.

Safety during Remembrance Day ceremonies has been noted. The road is blocked each year by police and/or fire dept. The same as the July 1 parade. A small inconvenience for some ,nothing compared to giving your life for your country.

The money used to move could have built a ramp and maybe installed an electrical outlet.

If and when Cenotaphs are moved there is a protocol to be followed. #1 on that list is the community and families have to be made aware of the proposed move. How was this allowed to happen with no public input?

Why was this move even considered ? Who had the authority to make this decision?

We are not here to disrespect the legion. To the contrary , it seems the legion is being blamed for the move. Why was the letter the legion wrote addressed to Carl MacPhee? Maybe the same reason he didn't want our group to give our presentation?

At the original location those who weren't able to stand for long periods were able to stay in their cars and park behind the monument. This is not an option at the legion. The legion does not have a sound system so cords will still need to be run. As far as litter goes, our garbage cans were taken out of the village a few years ago so litter will be where ever you go.

At the council meeting last Tuesday it was brought up that members were told people had told them they were afraid this would tear the community apart. I believe the exact opposite has happened. In my 60 years of living in Shubenacadie I have never seen people come together like they have over this. I have had people come to my home, phone me, message and email me after I posted a picture of the Cenotaph on EHWTK on Facebook. If I go to grocery or drug store people are talking to me about this. It's been almost 2 months since the move and people are still signing the online petition. People from Texas, New York, BC. They all came from Shubie and were horrified that the one staple thing when they come home to visit is now not where it belongs.

Another council member mentioned this was a community issue , not municipal. The municipality paid for the move so it most definitely is a municipal issue. Yes it should have been a community issue. When this move

came into conversation our councilor should have held a community meeting. I firmly believe the move never would have happened. This move should affect all of you , not just Shubenacadie. These men fought for our freedoms and way of life, for all of Canada and they have been disrespected.

A mistake was made, it's time to admit it, fix it and move on. Bring our soldier home .

Carolyn Nelson