

Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

Subject: FW: Shubenacadie War Memorial Relocation

----- Original message -----

From: CONLEY

Date: 2025-09-15 10:29 p.m. (GMT-04:00)

To: Eleanor Roulston <eroulston@easthants.ca>, Sandra Garden-Cole <sgarden-cole@easthants.ca>, Norval Mitchell <nmitchell@easthants.ca>, Eldon Hebb <ehebb@easthants.ca>, Carl MacPhee <cmacphee@easthants.ca>, Keith Rhyno <krhyno@easthants.ca>, Craig Merriam <cmerriam@easthants.ca>, Walter Tingley <wtingley@easthants.ca>, Michael Perry <mperry@easthants.ca>, Elie Moussa <emoussa@easthants.ca>, Cecil Dixon <cdixon@easthants.ca>

Subject: Shubenacadie War Memorial Relocation

Good Evening,

My name is Michael (Mike) Conley and I grew up in Shubenacadie. I'd like this letter read at the council meeting on Tuesday, 16 September 2025 between 1530-1550 hours when the CAO presents on the topic of the Shubenacadie War Memorial relocation topic.

Some of you may remember me, while most of you probably do not. I went to school with some of your children, your nieces and nephews, etc. I was a proud member of East Hants and lived there during my formative years. I represented the Village of Shubenacadie, the municipality of East Hants on the provincial and national stage and fields in multiple sports competitions in my youth and was always proud to tell people where I came from, but, writing this, I feel more pride than ever in coming from Shubie, but also shame for those who represent it at the municipal level. I feel shame for the councilors and warden of the area and most of all, utter disgust at the councilor and deputy warden from my own town, Carl MacPhee, yes Carl, I do remember you from my youth, although I am sure you do not remember me. I remember you yelling at me and some friends for sitting on the war monument when we were teens, I remember you lecturing us pretty hard about respecting the site and those who fought, I remember being scared that you were going to tell my parents (Carol and Gerry Conley)....more on that later in this message. I do, however, thank Councilors Tingley and Garden-Cole for at least speaking up and acknowledging what's going on and the misleading way in which it has come forth in some email correspondence that has come to light.

You see, when I was younger, some of my fondest memories were since whenever I was old enough to go to school, first at the Shubie pre-school (shout out to Mrs. Ingraham) and then when I could go to the "big school" at Shubie Elementary where I am proud to say I am still friends to this day with my first ever teacher (shout out Mrs. Sue Morrison, love you momma Sue).

I remember one of the most memorable days was always Remembrance Day, we would all line up and walk through the village to the site of the cenotaph together, whether you were White, Black, Indigenous, Asian, etc., etc., it didn't matter, the war memorial brought us all together as a community to remember those who fought for our freedoms. It was a place, rightfully so, of reverence and respect. These times were followed by stories from our parents and teachers about respecting those

who fought, and respecting the monument to their ultimate sacrifice. It was instilled in the kids of Shubie at a very young age to respect the war memorial and a reminder to always remember those who for which it was placed. You can read more on that at this link: [Shubenacadie War Memorial | Veterans Affairs Canada](#). It is kind of interested to note that it says, "War Memorial" and not "cenotaph", again, more on my thoughts on that in a second.

SO.....back to me being a kid in Shubie. As we grew older, the monument was again central to the village and fiercely guarded as a treasure, so much so, I remember on Halloween night when I was 16, that we heard a bunch of "Stewiackers" were planning on defacing it as a Halloween prank.....so, me and some friends did what we did back int he day to solve issues.....we got a group of fellas from the village together and protected our beautiful monument without fists.....we knew back then it was important to fight to protect this piece of our villages history, I wonder why the council and deputy warden cannot do that now and shy awy from the controversy they created.

I wonder why it is coming to light now that lie after lie has been told by Carl MacPhee. I wonder why he has referenced his constituents in an email dated 26 May 2025 to council saying "The controversy is dying down. The dog is drowsy, if not asleep, but let it lay". I wonder why he was so prescriptive telling other councilors to "I feel that going forward, leave the issue alone".....Firstly to call your constituents and voting public dogs, isn't the best political move, Carl....not your brightest moment in an already dim political career. I feel those dogs may come back to bite you, so to speak. Why in the last meeting the topic of the war memorial was brought up did you get up from your seat and silence those by tabling motions. What are you scared of? What will the public find our Carl? I'd like to know who was contracted to move the memorial in the first place.....any relation to yourself or a friend, was there any proper consultation done?

Now, onto who I have become, and why this topic interests me so much.....you see Carl, I said how much of a profound impact that the Shubie war memorial had on me as a young boy.....and what a sense of pride and honour it instilled in me. Well, Carl, it instilled so much in me that I am currently about to complete my 19th year as an Artillery Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. I have served my country and continue to do so as a leader, as someone who is fiercely proud of where I came from, because it is the small towns who know best , and my little village of Shubie more than any, what it's like to supply the military with their sons and daughters. So, to Carl and the councilors and the warden who are trying to sweep this under the rug and trying to silence the dogs, I guarantee you have done quite the opposite. I am actually going to reach out to the various organizations I know and see if it was in fact actually legal for you to have moved that monument without proper guidance and consultations (easy google search Carl....search if it's legal to move war memorials in Canada, let me know how sweaty your palms get when you read the answer).

I was home visiting family last month and I was in dumbfounded awe at what you have done to our respected memorial to those who served , those who do serve and those who will serve.....you took it from a prominent place in the community, where it proudly stood and watched over us, always facing forward to those who passed.....to a spot at the legion where it is sideways and its rear end showing to half the people who pass it every day, in short, you have disgraced that monument and everything it stands for.

I very humbly ask for you all to look deep inside and come to terms with what you have done or allowed to be done, and I ask you this, make it right. Move the monument back to where it belongs, where the village wants it and where it should never have been moved from. As leaders in the military, we are

taught it's ok to make mistakes as long as you own them, and make it right, its time you all learn that very valuable lesson.

Your own code of conduct on the first page notes the following as "Guiding Principles": collegiality, respect, integrity, professionalism, TRANSPARENCY, responsibility. I have a weird feeling that more than one of these was breeched on this topic and it's quite easily provable should someone want to say.....I don't know, file a code of conduct complaint. But let's see if you'll all make this right before I encourage everyone I know in Shubie to go that step.

And one more request, as you sit in your meeting discussing the monument between 15330-1550 on 16 September, 2026, please look out in the crowd for me and look for my mom, Carol Conley, she is there supporting me as her son who serves in the military, I know she is immensely proud of me for serving, but, I also remember her tears of worry when I told her I was joining, I remember her worried voice when I would call home when I was overseas a couple years ago and the relief when I came back.....but, she is there sitting in that gallery for me as she always has been, so my request is this Carl....I want you personally to walk into that crowd and tell her you're sorry for what you've done and the underhanded way in which you did it, and the lies you told and the insults you have thrown at the proud people of the Village of Shubenacadie, and that you'll make it right and move our proud soldier back to his rightful spot. You know what you did was wrong, everyone else does now too, now we just have to see if you'll own it and make it right.

Regards,

Major Michael Conley, CD.
A proud Shubie Boy and proud soldier.

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