

Jodi Blois

[REDACTED]

To the Councillors of the Municipality of East Hants

Re: Return of the Shubenacadie War Memorial to Its Historic Site

Attn; Kim Ramsey,

Could you please forward this to the Warden and all East Hants Municipality Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of myself and many residents of Shubenacadie who are deeply concerned and frankly shocked by the recent relocation of our veterans' memorial. The cenotaph stood proudly in the heart of our community for over a century. Its move to the Legion grounds on Mill Village Road was undertaken without meaningful public consultation and without any compelling reason.

#### A Monument with Deep Historic Roots

Our cenotaph was unveiled in the summer of 1921 on land granted by the Canadian National Railway specifically to memorialize Shubenacadie's fallen. The location was no accident: it marked the very place where local soldiers boarded the train to war and, for those fortunate enough to return, where they stepped back onto home soil. The site has always served as a daily reminder of sacrifice to anyone travelling the old Number 2 highway.

#### Lack of Community Engagement

The Municipality has stated it "worked closely with a number of community groups," yet no broad disclosure or consultation took place. The move caught residents entirely off guard. Had the wider community been informed, you would have learned immediately of the monument's unique history and our strong opposition to relocation.

#### A Personal Connection

My own grandfather, Ken Blois, fought in the Second World War and came home to Shubenacadie. He lived with the memory of his brother and friends who never returned, and he understood the importance of honoring their sacrifice. I have no doubt he would be appalled to see the cenotaph our community's sacred reminder of courage and loss removed from its rightful place.

## The Cenotaph Belongs to the Community

This war memorial predates both the Municipality of East Hants and the Shubenacadie Legion. It is the property of the people of Shubenacadie. Decisions affecting it must be made by the community at large—not by a few individuals or organizations acting quietly behind closed doors.

### Our Request

We respectfully but firmly call on Council to:

1. Return the cenotaph to its original, historic site on Main Street, where it remains visible to all who pass through town.
2. Acknowledge the community's role as rightful stewards of this monument, ensuring that any future decisions involve open public consultation.

Our veterans gave their "last full measure of devotion" so that we might enjoy the freedoms we hold today. To move their memorial out of sight is to diminish that sacrifice. The community's outrage is justified, and only a full return to the cenotaph's sacred location will honor both our history and those who served.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We trust Council will act quickly and decisively to correct this mistake.

Lest We Forget,

Jodi Blois

Hometown, Shubenacadie