

September 22, 2025

Robert H. Pineo

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: All Councillors and the CAO:

Re: Shubenacadie Cenotaph: Motion for Reconsideration

I am writing as a former resident of Shubenacadie and MacPhee's Corner and as a relative of one of those soldiers whose grave is at the Cenotaph.

I write to you requesting that one of you make a Motion for Reconsideration of the defeated Motion to replace the Monument its former location at the Shubenacadie Cenotaph.

Personally, I marched to the Cenotaph as a Cub, a Scout, and later attending the services as an adult with my children. I was fortunate enough to see the veterans of both World Wars march, stand at attention, and respect and shed tears for those who died for our Country.

A cenotaph is a grave for those servicemembers who died away from home – the move is the desecration of a grave and it the epitome of disrespect.

Does the Municipality of the District of East Hants really want to be known as a government that, by words and deeds, says to those lost souls that their sacrifices mean less than a few parking spots? If that is the case, I hope that the Municipality discontinues providing wreaths to the various Remembrance Day services because you will have failed the "Lest" part of "Lest We Forget".

I must also say that the conduct of some of the Councillors has been despicable, including:

1. Suggesting that those opposed to the move have been bullying or otherwise disrespectful to others who are in favour of the new location – there have been no such acts;
2. Outright misleading Council, the Legion, and the public as from whom the request and reasons for the move originated;

3. The suggestion that because only 11 letters were received, this is not a major issue. Perhaps the likes and comments on the various Facebook posts would provide a more reasonable view of the will of those opposed;
4. Outright accusing members of the group on social media of “gaslighting” and presenting false facts regarding the move – despite clear evidence of those facts coming to light in the Freedom of Information results; and,
5. The suggestion that “cenotaphs across the country are moved all the time”, despite the available records showing that nine cenotaphs have been moved since World War I, including this one. The records show that none of the others were moved for reasons as trivial as development of a parking lot.

At the last meeting in which this issue was raised, several of you have debated from where the cost of replacement of the monument will be paid. To this, I suggest that the cost must be borne, regardless of the source of funds to restore the Municipality's integrity and the faith owed to those who died, their families, and the community. One must also factor in the cost of any challenges to the final decision.

I ask that on Wednesday evening you look within yourselves, think of the 24 deceased soldiers whose grave this is, and make the right decision which is a Motion to Reconsider along with one of you changing your vote to restore the monument to the Cenotaph.

Please right this wrong. Lest We Forget.

Yours truly,

Robert H. Pineo