

September 18th 2025

Municipality Of East Hants Warden and Councillors,

Re: Shubenacadie Cenotaph

Dear Warden Roulston and municipal councillors,

I wish to express my strong support for the request made by residents Carolyn Nelson, Michelle Anthony, Sue Smith and Willie Courtney to return the Shubenacadie Cenotaph to its original location along Highway 2 in the center of the village.

A Cenotaph is more than stone and bronze. It is a sacred public memorial dedicated to those who served and died in war – many of whom have no known grave. The word itself means “empty tomb” symbolizing a permanent place of remembrance for lives given in service to Canada. For families and communities, a Cenotaph is a living promise: we will remember them.

I am proud to say like others in this group, Shubie is my hometown and am both a daughter and a mother of veterans, I feel this responsibility and reverence deeply. This monument represents generations of sacrifice, and its location is not merely symbolic – it is an essential connection to those we honor and to the families who continue to live with their service and sacrifice.

The original Highway 2 sight was chosen with care and holds decades of meaning for veterans, families, and residents who gather there each year to honor those who sacrificed everything. Its visibility and accessibility invite daily reflection and allow ceremonies such as Remembrance Day services to be held with dignity. Moving it from that historic setting has weakened the deep connection between the monument and the people it honors.

Equally important is the principle of respect. A cenotaph is not simply a community feature to be moved for convenience; it is a solemn symbol that demands thoughtful consultation before any change. Many residents were unaware of the relocation until after it occurred, leaving them feeling unheard and undermining the reverence owed to such a sacred site.

I respectfully urge council to act on the presenters’ concerns and to prioritize returning the Shubenacadie Cenotaph to its original and rightful home. Doing so will restore trust, preserve its historical and spiritual significance, and reaffirm our shared commitment to remembering those who gave their lives for our freedom. We raise our children knowing to “error is human” to be accountable for our mistakes and to right our wrongs. It is time to right the wrong made by council.

In closing, I attended the meeting of September 16th and was present for the scolding giving by Warden Roulston. I was more than a little taken back by the scolding. I have also read emails by Councillor MacPhee, referencing the group as “Dogs” Both the scolding and Councillor remarks were highly unprofessional and offensive.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important matter.

Sherry Schriver (Downey)