

Monday, September 22, 2025

Dear Councillor Members of East Hants,

I am writing in response to the meeting Sept. 16, 2025, regarding the removal of the Shubenacadie Cenotaph. I have attended two meetings and have to say I have been very disappointed in both.

First I would like to address the scolding we all felt from Councillor Ruston, we were accused of calling Mr. MacPhee a liar. We were a captive audience and allowed no recourse to respond. Since it monopolized a great amount of your time in addressing the issue of removal of the Shubenacadie cenotaph, without community approval, I do feel compelled to respond. I have thought long and hard about this matter. An attorney Rebecca Zung stated, "Leaving out key facts, that affect someone's choices, is betrayal. Silence can be just as dishonest as a lie." I question motives, and the quick interruption of others councillors, and how they were shut down, from the one person who was expected to protect and have the community of Shubenacadie in his best interest.

There was no good reason for the removal and relocation of the cenotaph, and certainly without consultation of the people who it means the most to, the people of the community of Shubenacadie. You firstly, would not have spent money if it had NOT been moved. Secondly, if consulted, people may have agreed to move it and again, no problem. It is an insult, that the oldest, dearest, most sentimental piece of Shubenacadie history has been disturbed like it meant nothing. We should not feel guilty for requesting it returned to its original location, taking money from other communities. You made the mistake, please fix it. And also, why has it not been declared a historic location? Can our councillors not do that?

I do want to thank those councillors who showed empathy and recognize the upset this has caused. It is very upsetting right to the core of who we are. It was a connection to our very proud past. Driving through the Main Street and seeing the unique display with such a proud history, one of two small community cenotaphs of its time, which no other community can claim, and so proud of the ultimate sacrifice of our community to keep our country safe, is no longer there. Hearts are broken. It isn't just Remembrance Day. It is our reminder of what a devoted, dedicated community Shubenacadie is. We want it in its designated spot determined by our ancestors.

When the municipality confirmed legal ownership of the land leased to the community from CN, is there not a code of ethics that request you to align with the original intent of the land donation, whether written or not? That would be to certainly keep the cenotaph in its location. If it hadn't been given to the community, you perhaps could not have purchased it. Respect the past original intent and do the right thing.

Thank you,
Debbie Eddy