

Dawn Henneberry

██████████

Shubenacadie

Nova Scotia, B0N2H0

East Hants Municipality:

Response Letter for the Shubenacadie Monument Removal from Main Street

My name is Dawn Henneberry. I am a veteran; I was in the military for 12 years with 2 tours to Afghanistan. I broke my ankle in three spots, which is why I was not to your first meeting about the controversial movement of the monument.

I first seen a post on social media about the movement of the cenotaph, so I was curious what the concern was. I went to the school to see the Cenotaph; I was pleasantly surprised. The cenotaph is not only at the Legion; it is right beside the elementary school.

In my jobs, I have always told people to come up with a solution, instead of re-iterating the same items.

1. Cenotaph Memories on Main Street: I understand there are significant memories and reasons why the Monument was erected on Main Street, however times change, the memories that people have, will not change.

2. Cenotaph meaning: I will give the dictionary meeting as well what I feel as a Veteran.

a. Standing at the monument on Remembrance Day. I have been to many ceremonies in different areas of the world, however the ceremony in the community, to me, is the most warming; you can visualize the people that come to commemorate the fallen. My memories are most likely different as I was there. I looked after soldiers; I stand and almost always have tears as I have stood for hours for a ramp ceremony and listening to the "Last Post". We are not just commemorating the wars from years ago; there are other conflicts where our soldiers lost their lives that are not mentioned in any of the concerns for the Monument being moved.

b. Dictionary Meaning of Cenotaph. Shubenacadie Monument is NOT a tomb.

Memorials and cenotaphs

To promote Remembrance, The Royal Canadian Legion erects and maintains war memorials and cenotaphs across Canada, including the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**. The memorials and cenotaphs serve as gathering places for ceremonies on Remembrance Day, and for other Remembrance milestones throughout the year. They are important symbols of our commitment to honouring and remembering the sacrifices of our Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, peacekeepers, as well as their families and communities. Unlike monuments, which are structures that pay tribute to the achievements, heritage, or ideals of a person, group, event or time in history, war memorials and cenotaphs are built to honour and remember those killed in conflicts. War memorials help us to never forget.

The Legion is dedicated to ensuring Canadians have opportunities to remember Canada's Fallen Veterans. Whether on a national scale such as the National War Memorial, or locally through community memorials and cenotaphs, Legion members work tirelessly to advocate for, fundraise and coordinate the building and maintenance of memorials and cenotaphs to ensure their community has a place where people can gather to remember our Fallen heroes. We encourage all Canadians to visit their local war memorial or cenotaph and take a moment to pause, to reflect, to thank and to Remember.

- c. *Understanding what the Monument means* is the biggest part of this conversation. The monument serves the purpose of remembering together. Regretfully as it stands at this point in time, there is no memory of the railway in Shubenacadie except a select few that grew up here, whether the Monument is on Main Street or not.

3. **The Elderly Veterans:** The Monument at the Legion allows access to a Ceremony and the Legion. There was concern about the Legion's financial ability to remain there. The ceremony being held at the Legion could bring extra people and money to the Legion. The time after the ceremony could be a celebration inside the Legion and honouring those veterans that made it through those unmanageable times; think about what that conversation could be, as well as the money that could be brought in for the Legion. As it stands now most people go home and continue on with their lives; veterans keep remembering.

4. **The Elementary School:** Having the Monument at the Legion is there for the children to see and ask about why it is there and they can hold their ceremony there instead of the classroom. There certainly needs to be more knowledge and conversations about why we are here today for both adults and even more children.

- a. I read there was some conversation about the Monument being vandalized. The Monument was vandalized more than once in plain site on Main Street. The area in back of the Monument was all tall grass and a dirt road, which made it look not as nice, albeit, the area around the Monument was kept. At the Legion there are close houses to keep a watch and can be maintained easier at the Legion.

5. **National Identity:** The moving of the cenotaph to a new area is not what we should be focused on; we are remembering the members that did not come home during any overseas conflicts or the fact that no one comes home the same as when they left. The point is to Remember together as communities, bringing unity to our community and country, especially during these precarious times.

In Conclusion: I am not trying to demean the people from the community for their ideas, concerns and thoughts. I truly understand the importance of the railway and the soldiers that left from here or were returned to their families. There were many other great things that came out of the railway for Shubenacadie; getting the farmers supply of milk in to the city to sell, and lumber that needed to be transported; the railway helped Shubenacadie's growth.

Once again, I speak for myself as a veteran. It does not matter where the monument is for me to remember. Remembrance Day Ceremonies can be very emotional for Veterans and the men and women that are still serving. We know.... We have been there... We remember sometimes with tears in our eyes, holding our breath remembering with community and Canada.

The idea of a plaque or even more an *interpretive sign* for the railway is a perfect way to memorialize the significance of the railway, while the monument can be remembered at the Legion with the gathering of the community. I see this as a two- fold benefit, we save money; we also can spread the awareness about the railway in Shubenacadie and the increased growth that it gave our town. I am sure there are pics of the cows on the railway, armed guards on the tracks so no one would attack the train to the money that it brought in to the businesses at that time. Shubenacadie and even more East Hants has grown exponentially, there are many new people around; the interpretative sign could help others that are not from our area, keep Shubenacadie and the railway on the map and remembered like it should be.

I have a suggestion about municipal issues. I understand that these meetings are open to the public, however when it is something about the community, a letter mailed out to explain what the meeting is about, could allow the people to have their concerns acknowledged prior to the vote, there are many older people that are not on social media. I also have seen many comments in which it did not matter where the monument is and this vote could have been more focussed around the whole community.

I do want to re-iterate that I understand why people are upset, however if it is about remembering, there is no difference where the monument is. The move is already completed so let's move forward and address the significance of the railway for Shubenacadie because there is a great deal more than the returning and leaving of soldiers; this should be memorialized as well.

Thank you for your time,
Lt(N) Ret Dawn Henneberry BA BSCN RN CCNO

A large rectangular area of the page has been completely blacked out with a thick marker, obscuring a signature. To the left of this redacted area, there is a small, partially visible green logo or mark.

This is one image of an interpretive sign; the possibilities are endless.

The next page is a pic of the railway station in Shubenacadie.

The Royals were here via the train, another great story and that the farmers asked the cows not be out over the tracks for 2 hours prior to the train arriving. (the third pic)







