

From: Rhonda Fleet [REDACTED]
Sent: September 24, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Kim Ramsay
Subject: Shubenacadie Cenotaph

Dear Warden and Councillors,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and strong opposition to the recent decision to remove the cenotaph from its original and rightful location—particularly for the purpose of expanding parking facilities.

This decision is profoundly disrespectful to the memory of the men and women who served and sacrificed their lives for our country. Cenotaphs are sacred spaces, not placeholders to be shifted for convenience or commercial interests. To displace a war memorial in favor of parking sends a troubling message about the values and priorities of this council—and how little regard is being given to our shared history and the veterans who helped shape it.

It is also worth noting that this same area had more businesses and larger vehicles back in the 1980s, and yet the cenotaph's location was never an issue. Why is it now suddenly considered an obstacle? This reasoning does not hold up under scrutiny.

This action is not only inappropriate—it is shameful.

The cenotaph was deliberately placed in a central and accessible location to allow the community to gather in remembrance, particularly on solemn occasions such as Remembrance Day. Its removal, especially for something as trivial as a few more parking spots, completely undermines its purpose and the dignity of those it was meant to honor.

What's even more concerning is that this decision appears to have been made without meaningful public consultation. A change of this magnitude—especially one involving a memorial of such historical and emotional significance—should never proceed without the full engagement of the public, local veterans' groups, and heritage organizations.

Across the country, communities are working hard to preserve sites of remembrance and honor their veterans. Meanwhile, this council has chosen to do the opposite. To prioritize vehicles over veterans is not only disappointing—it is unacceptable.

As someone from a neighboring community, I grew up attending this cenotaph as part of Brownies and Girl Guides. Even now, when I visit my doctor's office in Shubenacadie, I always take notice of the cenotaph when driving by. It's a part of who we are. Yes, I know the new location is not far—but now I don't see it every time I pass through, and neither do those just driving by. It's not just a cenotaph; it's a part of what makes Shubenacadie unique.

I urge you to reconsider this decision immediately. The community deserves better—and more importantly, so do our veterans.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Fleet

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