

Saturday, September 27, 2025

I have lived and worked in Shubenacadie my whole life. When I was growing up, the village seemed to be a more happening spot. The ball field was a hang out spot. I remember when the field had the lights installed and games would go on into the night. The bleachers would be full and cars would be lined up outside the fence, and the fries at the takeout were incredibly good. You had to pay to get in back then, believe it or not.

The town was busier too. We had Stedmans, the co-op, 2 gas stations on main street, a drugstore, flower shop, a meat shop, bank, a hotel!- that I was told not to go near. I thought it was because it had a pool table and loud music blasting out of it was the reason why; That may have been part of it.

Like I said, Shubie was a happening spot. But as the years went on things change. There was not as much ball being played and the lights went dark.

Over time businesses closed, some reopened and closed again.

The hotspot wasn't Shubenacadie anymore. Growth had taken off in another part of the corridor and people griped that the municipality had forgotten about us. They didn't want us to succeed! And in some ways, it felt like that.

My mother joined the Shubenacadie Development association, a volunteer group focused on helping to keep the village presentable and welcoming. She spearheaded the hanging of the wreaths and later the flower baskets. Years later I joined to help support the group in my small way. They do the hard stuff. But the focus remains on making the community welcoming and presentable to visitors and the people that live here.

I became aware of the cenotaph issue the same way as most everyone else. Word came through that the municipality was moving the statue! What! How dare they! We weren't informed of this! They are still screwing Shubenacadie over!

It was going to the legion, and I went to take a look and thought; this is not a bad idea. There are positive reasons for it to be there. Easily maintained for the people who look after it. A spacious parking lot for a crowd. Easier set up of microphones and other media. If the weather is acting up, go inside. The people that have to remain in their cars for the ceremony can now view it in front of the monument and not from behind as they do now. I also believe having it by the elementary school is a positive as it offers the chance for children to learn about freedom, sacrifice and history.

I am not on any social media, I get my news the old fashioned way (gossip). It seems this has become a hot topic issue. People have their opinions and we have to respect that. I believe there are some in the community group I'm a part of have a different opinion than mine. But I think we as a group, and community would agree that the area that cenotaph was in, is not aesthetically

pleasing and we have an offer from the municipality clean it up, to put in a paved parking lot which would mean so much for the businesses here. A good parking lot is a big deal for this village in that area, it says welcome.

This situation(monument has been moved to the legion, now has been approved to move back) has happened very quickly, and I don't think people have been properly informed of what's going on or that there were other options.

This opportunity may not come around again.

I think we should take time to consider this before we do another statue move. Let's hear all voices in the community and if the majority want it in its original place, so be it.

This is my opinion, I'm not here criticize my neighbours, friends and colleagues who have a different opinion than mine but I must ask; If we don't take this opportunity to make over main street, to clean it up and make it safer, why are we hanging wreaths and flower baskets?

After thought; The municipality took over the ball field a couple years ago and it looks great what they have done. I trust they will do the same for the parking area.

And the ball field lights are being used again.

Respectfully

George Ettinger