

Southwold War Memorial Committee
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:30 PM

Council Chambers, Fingal

1. Business arising from Minutes
2. Plans for November 2025
3. Next meeting

Attendance:

____ Sarah Emons
____ Gayle Bogart
____ Len Lynch
____ Bill Aarts
____ Rev. John Brown
____ Rev. Diane Macpherson
____ Karen Lynch
____ Leah Morise



Southwold War Memorial Committee

November 19, 2024
Council Chambers, Fingal
3:30 PM

Attending: Len Lynch, Rev Diane Macpherson, Rev John Brown, Karen Lynch, Sarah Emons

Staff Resource: Caitlin Wight

Regrets: Gayle Bogart, Bill Aarts, Leah Morise

Called to order at 3:33 PM

Motion to approve Minutes from September 17, 2024, meeting by Karen Lynch,
Seconded by Len Lynch. All in favour. Carried.

Motion to approve the agenda for the September 17, 2024 meeting by Rev. John Brown,
Seconded by Rev. Diane Macpherson All in favour. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

Plans for November 9, 2025

- Recap of event.
- Caitlin to send out Thank-you notes
- Can we look into drapes/drape track for complex
- Projectors – need angle adjusted
- Caitlin to send out Cadet Group Stipends
- Does that stage have a railing for the stairs

New Business

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Municipal Office in Fingal.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Len Lynch, seconded by Diane Macpherson.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Appendix A – Len Lynch’s Notes

Southwold Remembers Wrap Up Remarks
November 19, 2024

- Generally, this may have been our best service outside the first five years, 2000 – 2004.
- We accomplished the objective celebrations of the RCAF 100th anniversary and the 25th Southwold Remembers.
- We successfully managed the wreath presentations inside the Keystone Complex when weather issues forced us indoors.
- Ted Barris was able to take advantage of the “transition time” available to complete his full presentation. He also seemed to do a brisk business in book sales.
- We added a number of new wreath presentations:
 - Southwold Fire Department
 - Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Unit
 - Canadian Association of UN Peacekeepers
 - Royal Canadian Navy
- We re-introduced wreaths from:
 - 41st Shedden Scouts
 - Elgin Historical Society
- Disappointing to not have representation from the 31 CER and it seems we no longer have interest from the Indigenous Veterans.
- Also disappointing to lose the Southwold School Choir. However, Leah Morise did a terrific job with the two anthems.
- We did experience audio issues on the live virtual feed. However, Grayden cleaned it up for the final edition posted on-line. The visual material that was edited in from the handheld camera greatly enhanced the final virtual version.
- Having Friday set up for Grayden is essential if we continue with virtual services.
If we want to continue, please hold three days for 2025 (November 7, 8 & 9).
- Having John Price available for the Friday set up was beneficial both for the installation of the two stages as well as transport of flags and sand bags from the office.
- The Saturday rehearsal was also beneficial for our presenters and for Grayden’s team. We were exactly on time!

- Leah & Mike did a great job on the photos!
- Thanks to Karen and Diane for keeping up with last minute wreath updates!
- Thanks to Caitlin for managing the last minute wreath presenters and for updating the program.
- Kudos to Sarah, Rev. John, Rev. Diane and Bill for their usual stalwart efforts on execution of the scripts!
- I assume we saved money when the Harvards cancelled?
- The positive response from some of the presenters and veterans to Southwold Remembers was very flattering. They seem genuine in their praise of what we do here in our community.
- Do we still send Thank You notes?
- I was surprised that an outside group was sent in to assist Ted with book sales. Cathy Bugar had assisted in 2022 and 2023 and was at the hall at 8:30 (with Ross and Tony Paul) to carry in books. She was disappointed with the change in plans.
- I also noticed that in two of our promotion messages, we did not list Ted's book accurately. One listed last year's title and one listed the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF as his topic.

Suggestions:

- Consider installing permanent audio speakers in the upper corners of the hall on the east side. Efficiency and quality will improve.
- Consider purchasing and installing permanent drapes (Black – floor to ceiling) behind the stage area. They would benefit a variety of hall rentals.
- Both ceiling mounted projector systems required adjustments to keep them from drifting. They may require maintenance.
- Even if we discontinue virtual presentations, Establish Media's participation in augmenting our visuals and Ted's presentations on the projection screens is essential to our production.

Miscellaneous:

Ross Bugar and I gave a presentation to the Middlemarch Women's Institute on Tuesday November 12. The topic was Southwold Remembers... The First 25 years. We began the presentation at the Shedden Library where I gave the background on how the Keystone Park landscaping committee established a plan for the Memorial Site and further established the War Veterans Research Committee. This led to creating the original War Veterans Memorial Committee with Southwold Council's endorsement. Twelve members of the WI walked across the park where we focused in detail on various features of the Memorial Site and the rest of the park.

The presentation continued at my house where coffee, tea and desserts were served. I reviewed each year of Southwold Remembers and discussed how we have evolved in our programs over the years. I showed them four videos as part of the presentation.

DRAFT