



## Southwold War Memorial Committee

November 20, 2025  
Council Chambers, Fingal  
3:30 PM

Attending: Len Lynch, Rev. Diane Macpherson, Karen Lynch, Leah Morise, Bill Aarts, Rev. John Brown

Staff Resource: Caitlin Wight

Regrets: Councillor Emons, Gayle Bogart

Called to order at 3:28 PM

Motion to approve Minutes from October 21, 2025, meeting by Rev. Diane Macpherson, Seconded by Bill Aarts. All in favour. Carried.

Motion to approve Agenda for November 20, 2025, meeting by Rev. Diane Macpherson, Seconded by Bill Aarts

### Business Arising from Minutes/Wrap Up

- Set up day Friday beneficial
- Clarification from previous minutes to note – Len met with Councillor Emons and Corey Pemberton for input on the curtains. This was to provide suggestions what the committee's thoughts were on what should be purchased, not take charge of coordinating the purchase of them.
  - Committee would prefer permanent curtains for the complex – ones that can be extended across the east wall of the complex and then closed into a corner cabinet when not in use. Noted that it is a legacy to the complex by upgrading with curtains and the AV system. Would like to see the best fit / option selected for the complex.

- Audio Speakers – not adequate for service. Possible to have something in the budget to replace them? The safety aspect of the speaker cables being taped down on the floor.
- Len to connect with Mike Rivard, Air Cadets & Linda Sawyer, Army Cadets, before next year's service for discussion on process for the cadets, focused on the presentation of the wreaths.

### Plans for November 8, 2026

- Put together laminated "Reserved" signs for seats for the Wreath Presenters, and Committee
- Committee would like to have the video of the service posted at 9:30 am on Remembrance Day – the video from this year was posted at 11:00 AM.
- Scripts – point of note for Caitlin for next year. When the updates for the names of the Wreath Presenters are provided, the names need to be updated in the script as well.
- Committee would like to reduce the number of program and bulletin copies to 300.
- Ideas for 2026 Theme – See Schedule A – "Possible Subjects for 2026"
  - Would like to choose a theme to fit with Ted's presentation.
- Silver Cross – discussion of WWI, Guy Clark – to decide at February meeting
- Update to Lament in program – update program to note that the audience is to respond with "We will Remember Them" after the conclusion of the lament read by Rev. Diane Macpherson.

### New Business

- First Hussars – Nick Corrie – to add wreath for the group and add into the service. Caitlin to connect with him for information to send invitation for 2026.
- Wreaths borrowed for Dutton Service – have they been returned? Caitlin confirmed that yes, they had been returned that day and were back to the complex.
- Southwold Remembers Poster Contest -discussion regarding email that Len sent about the start of a poster contest for children in the Township to participate in. Contest to take place at the Shedden Fair, with different age categories. Prizes available for selected winners of each category.
  - Committee all in agreement to support the contest.
- Stipends – Caitlin inquired on the stipend amounts; committee decided on doing the same as the previous year.

Motion to accept Stipends at same amount as 2024 by Bill Aarts. Seconded by John Brown. All in favor. Carried

- Committee discussion on paying for Ted Barris's accommodation for the Saturday night before the service. Came about from this year, and a request from Ted on the possibility of cost sharing on the night this year. Inclement weather made it extremely difficult for Ted to travel home between speaking engagements on Saturday and the service on Sunday. Committee members suggested covering his accommodation for 2025 and were all in agreement.

Motion to approve covering Ted Barris's accommodations for the one night prior to the service on a yearly basis by Diane Macpherson. Seconded by John Brown. All in Favor, Carried.

- Knitted Poppy Blanket borrowed from Dutton – Karen Lynch to reach out to the Shedden community to see about the possibility of getting one made for Southwold.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 3:30 PM in Council Chambers in Fingal.

#### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Leah Morise, seconded by Karen Lynch.

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

## Schedule A – Possible Subjects for 2026

In 2026, Canada will mark several major World War I and II anniversaries with national and international commemorations, including battlefield tours, ceremonies, and educational initiatives. Here are the most notable events and milestones planned:

### Major Canadian WWI & WWII Anniversaries in 2026

#### 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands (1945-2026)

- Significance: Canadian forces played a pivotal role in liberating the Netherlands during the final months of WWII.
- Planned Commemorations:
  - May 4, 2026: Canadian-led ceremony at Holten Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands.
  - May 5, 2026: Liberation Day celebrations in Dutch cities, with Canadian veterans and youth delegations expected to participate.
  - Battlefield tours retracing the Maple Leaf Route from Normandy to Holland are scheduled by groups like Liberation Tours and Special Travel International.

#### 110th Anniversary of the Start of World War I (1914-2026)

- While not a traditional milestone year, this anniversary may be acknowledged through educational programming and remembrance events, especially in schools and museums.

#### 109th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge (1917-2026)

- April 9, 2026: Vimy Ridge Day will be marked with ceremonies at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France and across Canada.

#### 82nd Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy (1944-2026)

- June 6, 2026: Commemorations at Juno Beach Centre in France, with Canadian delegations expected.
- Tours and ceremonies will highlight Canada's role in the landings and subsequent campaign.

#### 82nd Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid (1942-2026)

- August 19, 2026: Memorial events in Dieppe, France, and Canadian communities to honour the heavy sacrifices made during this ill-fated operation.

### National and Local Commemorations

- Veterans Affairs Canada and the Royal Canadian Legion will support ceremonies across the country, especially around:
  - Battle of the Atlantic Sunday (first Sunday in May)

- Remembrance Day (November 11)
- Vimy Ridge Day (April 9)
- The Commemorate Canada program offers funding for local initiatives marking these anniversaries.