

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 7, 2026

RE: **Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph and Grace Hedley Church (Little Church)
Heritage Register Status and Provincial Heritage Register Nomination**

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors confirm that the Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph has been included on the RDOS Community Heritage Register since the Board decision of February 15, 2018;

AND THAT the Board of Directors direct staff to add the Grace Hedley Church (Little Church) to the RDOS Community Heritage Register;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Directors direct staff to proceed with an application to the Province of British Columbia to add the Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph and Grace Hedley Church (Little Church) to the BC Provincial Heritage Register.

Alternatives:

THAT the Board take no action at this time.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide the Board with a concise historical and administrative overview of the Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph heritage designation;
- Clarify the status of the Cenotaph on the RDOS Community Heritage Register;
- Acknowledge and address a minor administrative discrepancy related to the RDOS website;
- Outline community interest in advancing the Grace Hedley Church (Little Church) for heritage recognition and seek Board direction on its addition to the RDOS Community Heritage Register; and
- Seek Board direction to advance formal recognition of the sites on the Provincial Heritage Register

Strategic Priorities:

1.2 Create Connections

This report aligns with the RDOS Strategic Priorities, particularly:

- Theme 1 – Vibrant and Diverse Communities: Protects cultural and historical assets that contribute to community identity;
- Theme 2 – Governance: Demonstrates accountability and follow-through on previous Board decisions; and
- Theme 3 – Intergovernmental Action: Advances collaboration with the Province of British Columbia on heritage recognition and stewardship.

Background & Analysis:

Community and Board Decisions

On February 1, 2018, the Community Services Committee considered a Statement of Significance and supporting documentation for the Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph. The Committee formally recommended that the site be nominated for inclusion on the RDOS Community Heritage Register.

At its regular meeting on February 15, 2018, the RDOS Board of Directors received and adopted the Community Services Committee recommendation and supported the nomination of the Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph for inclusion on the RDOS Community Heritage Register. This motion was moved, seconded, and carried by a simple majority, establishing clear Board authority and direction.

Since that time, the 2018 decision has not been rescinded or amended and has remained in effect from a governance and administrative perspective.



Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph

Hedley Heritage Museum Society Correspondence

In 2023–2024, the Hedley Heritage Museum Society contacted RDOS noting difficulty locating Hedley heritage sites, specifically the War Memorial Cenotaph, on the RDOS website. The Society referenced the 2018 Community Services Committee and Board decisions and requested that the apparent omission be addressed.

This correspondence prompted an internal review by staff and senior management, including review by the Chief Administrative Officer, confirming that:

- The Board decision from 2018 remains valid; and
- The issue relates to public-facing visibility, not the substance of heritage recognition.

Grace Hedley Church (“Little Church”)

The Grace Hedley Church, commonly referred to as the “Little Church,” is a long-standing and well documented historic place within the community of Hedley. The Church, which was built in 1903, has been the subject of a Statement of Significance and supporting heritage documentation, and was discussed in the context of broader Hedley heritage assets during the 2018 Community Services Committee review.

However, unlike the Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph, no formal RDOS Board resolution was adopted in 2018 to add the Grace Hedley Church to the RDOS Community Heritage Register. A review of the February 15, 2018 RDOS Board minutes confirms that the Board’s explicit heritage register decision at that time applied solely to the Cenotaph.

Subsequent correspondence from the Hedley Heritage Museum Society and the Electoral Area “G” Director indicates ongoing community interest in having the Church formally recognized as a heritage site. Recent review of RDOS records confirms that advancing the Little Church for heritage registration would constitute a new addition, requiring explicit Board endorsement, rather than an administrative follow-through of a previous decision.

Given the Church’s documented historic, cultural, and social significance, and its long association with early community life in Hedley, staff are recommending that the Board now consider formally adding the Grace Hedley Church to the RDOS Community Heritage Register, consistent with RDOS heritage practices and legislative requirements under the Local Government Act.



Hedley Grace Church

RDOS Community Heritage Register and Website

RDOS maintains a Community Heritage Register under the authority of the Local Government Act. The Register exists as an administrative and policy instrument and does not rely solely on website listings to confirm status.

The review confirmed that the Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph has been protected as a registered heritage site since the 2018 Board decision, notwithstanding that it was not clearly reflected on the heritage portion of

the RDOS website. This omission is characterized as a minor administrative and communications oversight, not a lapse in governance, protection, or Board intent.

Staff are currently working to update RDOS web content to reflect historic Board decisions accurately, including heritage

RDOS Heritage Services Context and Budget

RDOS heritage services for Electoral Area “G” are funded through the Heritage Service (GL 7840). The 2026 operating budget includes approximately \$8,300 in revenues and in annual expenses, including modest support costs and contractual support to local heritage organizations such as the Hedley Museum Society.

These services are guided by RDOS heritage policies and practices, including the RDOS Heritage Strategy, which emphasizes community-based stewardship, recognition of local historical assets, and collaboration with senior governments where appropriate.

Historic Significance of the Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph

The Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph, which was built in 1919, commemorates residents of Hedley who served and died in Canada’s military conflicts. It forms part of a broader collection of historic assets in Hedley, including the adjacent Grace Hedley Church, which has its own documented Statement of Significance.

The Cenotaph holds:

- Cultural and social value as a focal point for remembrance and public ceremonies;
- Historical value tied to Hedley’s early 20th-century community history; and
- Educational value through its association with local heritage interpretation and tourism along the Highway 3 corridor.

Provincial Heritage Register – Process and Rationale

The BC Provincial Heritage Register is administered by the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry responsible for culture and heritage. Inclusion on the Register:

- Does not impose additional regulatory burden on local governments;
- Provides formal recognition at the provincial level;
- Improves visibility for heritage conservation, education, and tourism; and
- Strengthens eligibility for certain heritage-related funding opportunities.

The application process is initiated by the local government and typically includes:

- Confirmation of local heritage recognition (already satisfied via the 2018 Board decision);
- A Statement of Significance; and basic site and ownership information.

Given the longstanding RDOS recognition of the Cenotaph and strong community support, staff recommend advancing to the provincial registration stage.

Financial Implications:

There are no material financial implications associated with confirming the local register status or submitting an application to the Provincial Heritage Register. All work can be accommodated within existing staff resources and the approved heritage service budget.

Communication Strategy:

Following Board direction:

- Staff will update RDOS public- facing heritage content to clearly reflect the heritage register status of the Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph and, subject to Board direction, the addition of the Grace Hedley Church;

Will a PowerPoint presentation be presented at the meeting? No

Respectfully submitted:

“Mark Koch”
*Managing Director, Community and Environmental
Services*

Attachment 1: Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph Statement of Significance
Attachment 2: Hedley Grace Church Statement of Significance