

# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph Electoral Area "G"

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Hedley war monument is located at the intersection of Scott Avenue and Webster Avenue, in Hedley, British Columbia. The south-facing monument is constructed of Vancouver Island diorite granite, and is eight feet high. The obelisk sits on a pedestal and displays lead lettering, battalion engraving and a WWII bronze plaque. A stone wall of cement cap surrounds the monument, is two feet high, and the total width of the square enclosure is approximately 15 feet. The cenotaph is situated in the original location from which 17 volunteers departed to enlist in World War I. Constructed in 1919, the Hedley Cenotaph is said to be one of the first war memorials in Canada. The monument was constructed with funds raised by the townspeople of the day. The site is also the largest town gathering to commemorate and honour those who served their country past and present.

### HERITAGE VALUES

The Hedley War Memorial Cenotaph is a site of heritage significance, for it embodies historical, aesthetic, cultural, spiritual, and educational values of the community. Aesthetic values are attributed to the site due to the unique stone masonry craft design and lost art of lead lettering. Cultural values are embodied in the fact that the local landmark has been known to generations of Hedley residents. Among the fallen names include (name), a First Nation's man as well as miners and other local families. Research on cenotaph names brings local history and families to life and reconnects with soldiers' descendants. The heritage site holds spiritual value for past and present generations, as it provides a focal point for reflection on personal histories and all others lost in wars, and generated church membership over the years. The memorial also remembers the fifteen soldiers that fell during two World Wars.

### CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

- The original location from which the soldiers of Hedley departed
- Dressed granite monument in early 20th Century style
- The fallen names of soldiers, and the dedication.
- Lead-filled engraved lettering.
- WWII bronze plaque.
- Insignia of the 54th Battalion
- A protective stone wall.

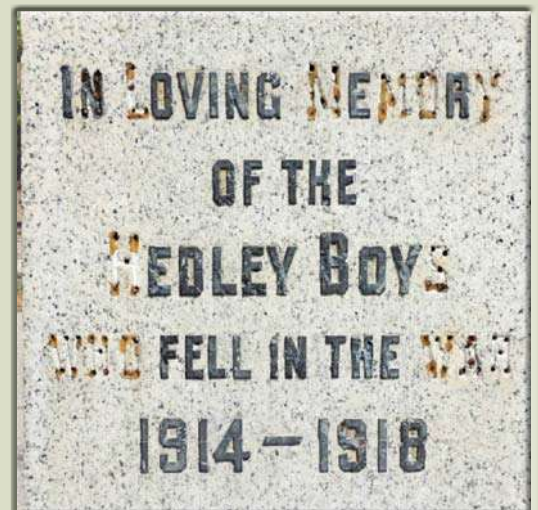


## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. Author Unkown, 1919. Princeton Star, Memorial for Hedley Soldiers. December 19, 1919.
2. Jack, Alec, 1966. Hedley Gazette, Letter to the Editor May 4, 1966.
3. Bowie, Tara, 2015. Keremeos Review, Push is on for Hedley cenotaph restoration. November 26, 2015.
4. Martens, Art, 2017. Similkameen Spotlight, Cenotaph might be oldest in Canada. August 10, 2017.
5. Author and Date Unkown, Historical Photo of Hedley Cenotaph.
6. Author Unkown, 2017. Cenotaph Final Repair. August, 2017.

## SPECIAL NOTES:

1. The cenotaph is located on the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Right-of -Way.



## "Memorial for Hedley Soldiers"

A monument of coast granite has been erected in front of the bank of Montreal building at Hedley in memory of the eleven men from the place who sacrificed their lives during the war. The monument cost upwards of \$1,000, and the ultimate intention is to have a couple of machine guns placed beside it. The names of the eleven heroes are carved on the granite, and the monument in all is an imposing structure. The unveiling ceremony took place last Sunday afternoon, and to Mrs. G.P.Jones was given the honour of the unveiling, while Rev.A.H.Cameron, a retired minister residing in Keremeos, was the spokesman. In the evening Rev. Cameron conducted a memorial service in the church, when there was a very large attendance. Mr Cameron expressed his appreciation of being invited to perform at these services, this being his first chance since 1914 to express publically his appreciation of Canadian soldiers."

***Princeton Star, Friday December 19, 1919***

HEDLEY

May 4/66

Letter to the Editor  
Re: Hedley Cenotaph

I am now the sole surviving member of the committee appointed in August 1919 to select and have erected a memorial cenotaph or column in Hedley, B.C. - this in memory of the men who died in the First or Great War.

Accordingly I have been very pleased to hear of the work of renovation and repair recently carried out, and to think that the neglected appearance of the cenotaph has been rectified. I believe that Mr. Bob Evans of Hedley was responsible for this good work and I thank him heartily.

The Cenotaph was paid for by the Hedley Patriotic Fund which was raised by the citizens of Hedley and the Nickel Plate during the war years and it amounted to a considerable sum, much of which was disbursed to returning veterans.

Mr. Thomas C. Knowles was the committee member who had the 'lion's share' in this project I forget who the third member was possibly Mr. E. J. Rotherham, Prince-ton's late postmaster. It is a great pleasure to know that this 47 year old memorial is now in creditable shape. Yours truly A. W. JACK. P.O. Box 78, Qualicum Beach.

# Push is on for Hedley cenotaph restoration

Tara Bowie  
Review Staff

It's not easy to find someone qualified to work on an almost 100 year-old monument and it certainly isn't cheap.

For about a year a group of dedicated volunteers in Hedley have been working to raise funds and secure a contractor to restore the Hedley cenotaph.

"Although we looked we were unable to find artisans in the Okanagan Valley that were able to work to restore the cenotaph so we had to go to Vancouver. We've found two monument companies in Vancouver and they've visited the site and they offer two very different options. It's very difficult to find people who are qualified to do this kind of work nowadays," Jennifer Douglass, member of the Hedley Cenotaph Committee said.

Over the years the lead lettering has either fallen off or been pulled off and portions of the granite have been damaged with time.

In addition to restoring the cenotaph, the committee would like to add two names Lep. William H. Henderson and Pte. John W. McLintock to the cenotaph. Through research and using the Hedley Gazette it's been determined the men were from Hedley and fought and died in the First World War.

"We've found evidence, documents that prove these men were Hedley residents and they died in the war and we would like to add them to the cenotaph," Douglass said.

The committee received two quotes from two companies that are very different from one another, Douglass said.

The first proposal is to cover the existing lead lettering with granite plaques and re-engrave all the soldiers' names onto the granite. This method would prevent vandals or age from removing letters in the future.

The cost is about \$19,500.

The other option is to replace the lead letters, keeping with the original design and adding the two new names also in lead letter.

The cost would be about \$22,000.

Residents who attended a meeting scheduled for Wednesday afternoon had a chance to decide which direction to go.

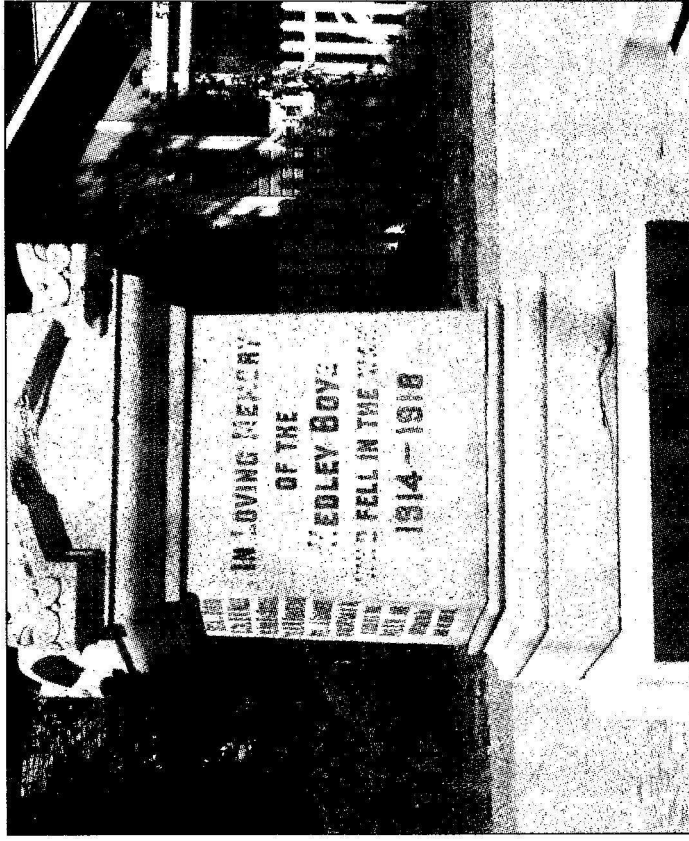
At this point almost \$5,000 has been raised for the restoration project and a grant from Veterans Affairs has been established to match up to \$10,000 raised.

"So we're about half way there right now," Douglass said.

Two families that took part in a commemorative weekend this past August of the 100-year anniversary of 17 Hedley men enlisting in the First World War on the same day, have stepped forward and stated they would match funds donated up to \$1,800 for a total of \$3,600.

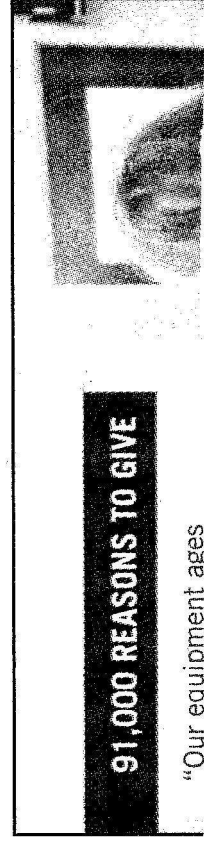
"They want to remain anonymous but they did generously come forward and say they would match funds raised up until the end of the year. So, the push is on."

Anyone interested in donating funds to restore the Hedley cenotaph can mail checks to the Hedley Museum with checks payable to the Hedley Cenotaph Fund.



File photo

Lead lettering is missing from the Hedley cenotaph. A group of volunteers are working to have the almost 100-year-old monument restored.

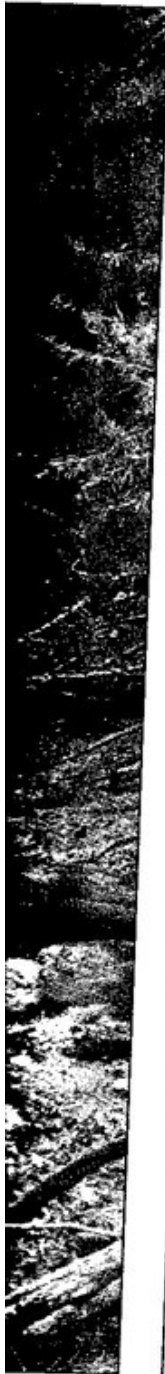


91,000 REASONS TO GIVE

"Our equipment ages

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# Cenotaph might be oldest in Canada



ART MARTENS

Carrying buckets of water, soft brushes and tooth-brushes, six enthusiastic Hedley citizens recently turned out to thoroughly clean the Hedley cenotaph. Restored with the help of fundraising and a matching grant from the federal government, the cenotaph will be rededicated at 1:00 pm on August 26th. The impetus for the refurbishing came from local researchers Jennifer Douglass and Andy English. From early issues of the Princeton Star and the Hedley Gazette, and conversations with descendants of service men named on the cenotaph, Douglass and English gleaned considerable information that might have been lost without their efforts. Their research brought to light two new names that needed to be added. According to English, the cenotaph may have been the first in Canada. Its location marks a point where 17 local recruits assembled in August 1915, prior to departing for Penticton where they enlisted. They were given a rousing send off with a marching band, a large banner and much applause and cheering.

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TO THE MEMORY  
OF  
WILLIAM GIBBS  
1810 - 1880  
BY HIS WIFE  
MARGARET GIBBS  
1815 - 1885  
A. S. GIBBS

08/26/2017

IN LIVING MEMORY  
OF THE  
HOOVER BOYS  
WHO FELL IN THE WALK  
1914 - 1918

1897 - 1918  
DIED IN SERVICE  
OF HIS COUNTRY  
IN THE GREAT WAR

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