

## Staff Report 2024-0528

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Meeting Date: October 8, 2024

Subject: Cenotaph Signage Commemorating Canadian Armed Forces Service, Past and Present

Submitted By: Janet Eagleson, Manager, Public Affairs and External Relations

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### RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to install a permanent sign honouring service in the Canadian Armed Forces and in United Nations peacekeeping roles at each of the four cenotaphs in Caledon and fund it from the Tax-Funded Operating Contingency Reserve.

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Cenotaphs have served as war memorials to the dead from the First and Second World Wars, as well as the Korean War. There is currently no recognition for the thousands who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces and in policing tours with the United Nation in war and peace.
- Weather- and graffiti-proof signs honouring all members of the Canadian Armed Forces, past and present, can be produced and installed at each of the four cenotaphs at a cost of approximately \$15,000.
- Self-standing signs have been identified as the best option to protect and respect the commemorative integrity of the existing cenotaphs.
- Installation is weather-dependent and must be staged, so priority will be given to the cenotaph at Town Hall to ensure the sign is in place for the Remembrance Day service. Other locations will be installed as soon as possible, but work may not be fully completed prior to this year's services at those locations.

### DISCUSSION

Cenotaphs in Canada largely emerged after the First World War, as communities grappled with the loss of their members and sought to commemorate those sacrifices. The names of those lost in the Second World War and Korean War also appear.

The Town of Caledon is home to four cenotaphs: Alton Legion (Alton), Laurel Hill Cemetery (Bolton), Town Hall (Caledon East) and Victoria Park (Mono Mills). These cenotaphs are gathering places for Remembrance Day ceremonies, in association with local branches of the Royal Canadian Legion.

As Canada loses its surviving veterans from those wars, the Town of Caledon recognized that it must evolve how it recognizes and appreciates Canadians who have served in uniform, so that no one forgets.

Caledon currently has no monument or space that honours all who have served in our Canadian Armed Forces, police and peacekeeping roles, as well as their families. The

addition of signage to commemorate that service at each of the cenotaphs is a way to preserve the integrity of the cenotaphs while engaging residents of all ages and cultures.

Weatherproof, graffiti-resistant signage can be discretely installed adjacent to and not interfere with each cenotaph. Two of the cenotaphs are on Town-owned property (Town Hall and Victoria Park) and installations can be done quickly, weather permitting.

Negotiations with the owners/boards at the other two locations will be needed to ensure their complete satisfaction with the approach. Depending on their specific needs and interests, these locations may need to have their installations after Remembrance Day, weather permitting, or no later than early 2025 when the ground is stable enough to accommodate access.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of four identical, 24x18” pedestal signs with installation is \$12,468 plus applicable taxes (\$14,088.84). This includes installation. There may be minor variances in price should unforeseen issues are determined after utility locates at each site. This amount is not budgeted in 2024 and can be drawn from the Tax-Funded Operating Contingency Reserve.

## **COUNCIL WORK PLAN**

### **Strategic Plan 2023-2035**

This report is directly related to the following priority in Caledon’s 2023-2035 Strategic Plan:

Community Vitality and Livability

Details about Caledon’s 2023-2035 Strategic Plan can be found at [caledon.ca/strategicplan](https://caledon.ca/strategicplan).

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.