Responsibilities

Ottawa Carleton District School Board
Move and Site Preparation

Manotick Legion
Refurbishment

Former Councillor Glen Brooks
Flag Poles

Kars Cenotaph Relocation Committee
Raising Funds for the purchase, engraving of pavers and landscaping

Background

The old site of the Kars cenotaph became increasingly unsafe for Remembrance Day services. Over the past several years more members of the community have been attending the services and the spectators have been blocking one lane of Rideau Valley Drive South. In addition, the construction of the new wing of the Rideau Valley Middle School and the demolition of the Kars Public School has made it necessary to relocate the cenotaph. As in most villages, towns and cities across Canada the cenotaph site is a centre point of the community. The Kars Cenotaph Relocation Committee intends to make just such a site in Kars, a site not only the community can be proud of, but also a site the community can take pride in creating.

This will be done with cooperation between the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, the Manotick Legion, and the Community of Kars.

Kars Cenotaph Relocation Committee

Richard Coles, Matthew Cook, Rita St John, Eric Little, Brad McMahon, Ann Noonan, Steve Noonan, Shaun Tolson, Bill Tupper, Trevor Ward, and Jane Willis.

Kars Cenotaph

Contacts

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History of the Kars Cenotaph

The earliest record of mention of a proposed cenotaph at Kars is found in the Legion branch minutes of the 19th November 1973, where a motion by Comrades Ashman and Glasner to consider the erection of such cenotaph was carried. Efforts to bring this to fruition continued on for several years. A site was chosen and a cost estimate obtained in mid-1975, with the hope of installation in time for the Kars Fair in 1976. This did not happen. Minutes from 1977 and 1978 indicated discussions were being held with the Carleton Board of Education. In March 1978 receipt of a letter from the Board was noted, giving permission for the cenotaph to be built on Kars School Grounds. The exact site was to be chosen by the School Board. The Cenotaph was unveiled at Kars at the Remembrance ceremony, Sunday, November 5th, 1978.

The Weekly Advance, Kemptville (November 8, 1978):

Cenotaph unveiled at Kars

A new cenotaph commemorating the soldiers who fell in two world wars was unveiled at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Kars, Sunday, November 5th. Mayor William Tupper removed the Canadian flag draped over the monument which represents a sword imbedded in cement. Padre David Lethbridge of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 314 in Manotick dedicated the cenotaph to the fallen comrades of both wars. The cenotaph was designed by legionnaire Victor Thompson of the Manotick branch and is located in front of the Kars Public School.

The cenotaph itself was built and paid for by the Legion Branch 314. It is the focus of annual Remembrance ceremonies in Kars. In recent times, it was recognized that the cenotaph was suffering from the ravages of our climate and general wear and tear. In 2008 and 2009 two legionnaires of the Branch 314 took on the task of repairing and renovating the cenotaph. Their hard work was completed in time for the Remembrance Ceremony in November 2009.

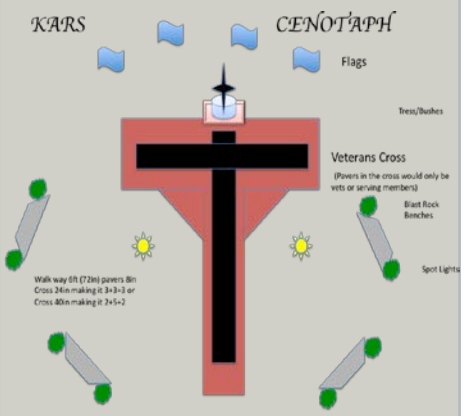
Unfortunately, the original design drawings for the cenotaph no longer exist, and it is not known how well the monument itself will stand up to its impending move to a new site on the redeveloped school grounds. The Legion branch will take the lead in its refurbishment, and will welcome support in that endeavour.

Fund Raising

Fundraising will commence in March 2011. The Kars Cenotaph Relocation Committee will be raising funds by asking dignitaries, businesses and organizations for donations or grants. In addition, local residents will have the opportunity of purchasing pavers with individual or family names engraved in them or to just make a donation. The Rideau Historical Society has produced a list of the fallen and pavers with those names will automatically be prepared. Engraved pavers with fallen, retired or serving military members will be placed as part of the cross. Engraved pavers purchased by individuals or families will be located on the walkway surrounding the cross. The Kars Cenotaph Relocation committee has a goal of raising $15000. Funds not used for the pavers, engraving and landscaping, will be held in trust by the Manotick Legion for maintenance and upkeep of the Kars cenotaph.

New Site

The new site is located directly in front of Rideau Valley Middle School near Rideau Valley Drive South.



Schedule

Spring 2010 – Planning

Summer/Winter 2010 – Site Prep

Spring 2011 – Fundraising

Summer 2011 – Landscaping

November 6th 2011 11:00 AM
1st Remembrance Day Ceremony
New Location