

03 February, 2011  
sent by email to r.tower@sackville.com  
Mayor and Council  
Town of Sackville  
Sackville, NB

Your Worship and Councillors:

Would it not be wonderful if the Sackville Town Council were now meeting on the Mount Allison campus in the hallowed halls of the Mount Allison Memorial Library, newly restored to its original grandeur? The Memorial Library is where the children of Sackville were welcomed before the Town had a library of her own; and it is the place where, over the years, the Mt A University Board of Regents meetings were frequently convened.

The handsome Memorial Library was constructed in 1927 with red sandstone cut from below the Sackville soil of the Pickard quarry by men of the community. The edifice was designed to be, and dedicated as, a Cenotaph to honour the young students and alumni who gave their lives in the Great War. To even think of destroying this War Memorial is an immoral act. Mount Allison University is breaking faith with the families who so generously gave to erect this Memorial Monument. They entrusted its need to the University as a reminder of supreme sacrifice given so that future generations of students could enjoy freedom.

The Memorial Library has stood proudly in the Sackville streetscape for generations of residents and visitors to appreciate. It is a cornerstone of that special atmosphere of Sackville that Adrienne Clarkson referred to on her visit several years ago. If destroyed, the Memorial Library would be the seventh heritage building removed from the streets of the town by Mount Allison since my return to town. Our streetscape is too precious and important to the economic growth of the town to be unnecessarily destroyed.

I am an experienced architectural planner and speak from my professional perspective. Last spring I saw the conceptual drawings for the proposed new Fine and Performing Arts Center. I did not like what I saw. The Memorial Library was not part of the then posted architect's sketches. The Mt A Administration has subsequently said that it would cost an 'additional 5 million dollars' to include the Memorial Library into the imagined new building. I believe this statement to be a deliberate exaggeration of reality. It is my opinion that, with a better plan, the Memorial Library can be part of an exciting Arts Center without costing an 'additional 5 million dollars'. Or, the Memorial Library can be restored to the original design of the celebrated architect Andrew Randall Cobb and other solutions can be found to meet the needs for Fine and Performing Arts. The destruction of the Memorial Library is totally unnecessary.

The Town of Sackville must avoid being complicit in this plan for the destruction of the Memorial Library and must protect this heritage and history of Sackville. The Council of the Town of Sackville is urged to present and unanimously pass the following motion:

*Whereas the Memorial Library, a true Monument in the Town of Sackville and on the Campus of Mount Allison University, carries a badge of history that is so monumental, and whereas the Memorial Library is a landmark heritage building crucial to the 'mystique of Sackville', Mount Allison University must make every possible effort to 'Save the Memorial Library'.*

Respectfully yours,

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