

17 March, 2011

sent by email to r.tower@sackville.com

Mayor and Council
Town of Sackville
Sackville, NB

Your Worship:

This is my letter of resignation from the Heritage Board to be effective immediately.

The stalwart sentry, **MEMORIAL LIBRARY 1914 1918**, today stands proudly enriching the streetscape of Sackville in honour of the young men and women who gave their lives in the Great War and ensuing conflicts so that we can continue to live in a land that is '*glorious and free*'!

In June 2010 when Dr. Charlie Scobie approached me with regards to nomination to the Heritage Review Board, I accepted with the knowledge that my favourite building in the town, **MEMORIAL LIBRARY 1914 1918**, was at risk. Today I realize that the Heritage Board has been completely ineffective in affording this structure, described by noted Halifax architect Andy Lynch as 'an important piece of Architecture', any consideration under the new Heritage By-Law. It is clear to me that the decision to not include **MEMORIAL LIBRARY 1914 1918** within the Heritage Conservation Areas was influenced by the Mount Allison VP sitting on the Board, who I believe was acting in a conflict of interest. It remains disconcerting to me that on one side of the street my new house is wrapped in heritage red tape, and on the other side a truly heritage building, bearing a burden of history like no other in the town, will wilfully be destroyed.

Your letter of March 14, 2011 is indeed a disappointment to me. Absolutely no mention is made of this 'badge of history' that makes **MEMORIAL LIBRARY 1914 1918** possibly the most significant heritage building ever constructed in the Town of Sackville. It certainly does not require 'legislative powers' for the Town to make a statement of appreciation of this historical import. Surely the Town has the right to protect its assets, and the obligation to not acquiesce to every whim of the University. Built to last from locally quarried sandstone with the sweat of local craftsmen and with funds given by the families of the fallen, this building is 'held in trust' by the University and at the same time is part of the Town with the names of these residents of this fair town for too short a time inscribed on the memorial plaques. As I have said before, I am of the opinion that the Administration has made a stupid decision. Your indifference to the death sentence decreed for this Memorial is disturbing. If the Town of Sackville cares so little of the unnecessary destruction of this Cenotaph, then I should not be a member of its Heritage Board.

Prominent Canadian military historian Dr. Marc Milner, a native son of Sackville and author of *HMCS Sackville 1941-1985*, is one of over 1300 signatories to the online petition to 'Save the Mount Allison Memorial Library'. He provides this provoking thought: "It is tragic to think that on the eve of the centennial of the most catastrophic event in Canadian history, Mt A is even considering destruction of its memorial to those who died in the service of their country during the Great War."

Respectfully yours,

Robert Eaton
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Cc Dr Charlie Scobie, Chair of Heritage Board