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MOUNT ALLISON ADMINISTRATION BREAKING FAITH

By continuing with plans to tear down the Memorial Library, the Mount Allison University administration is abrogating the responsibility bestowed upon them by the Board of Regents, Alumni and Administration of 1927 and every administration since which has held that magnificent building in sacred trust for future generations. In the mid 1920s when it was realized that more library space was needed, the Board of Regents of the day authorized the alumni to initiate a fund raising campaign. During the campaign a special appeal went out to the families and friends who had suffered war losses. The original subscription appeal said:

"The Mount Allison Boys who are out there "in Flanders fields" to stay deserve all the honors a grateful country can bestow on them."

In the same document it later said:

"If your friend has suffered, if your boy has died, how could you better honor his memory than to have his name placed where it will go down through the years cherished and revered by successive generations of grateful students?"

The Memorial Library was completed in 1927 at a cost of about \$100,000, 80% of which was donated by the families and friends of the war dead. Several of the casualties and the donating families were members of the Sackville community. All of the casualties spent at least some of their short lives in Sackville as Mt A. students. Memorial Library was designed and built of solid stone to last for centuries. It was intended to be a permanent memorial and cenotaph to the brave Allisonians who made the supreme sacrifice so that we would be free to make responsible choices. Clearly, destroying the Memorial Library is not a responsible choice.

Once Memorial Library is gone, there will be no way to bring it back when it is realized what a great mistake has been made. Successive generations of students will no longer be able to "cherish and revere" this timeless monument. The strength and air of permanence it gives to the campus and to the town of Sackville, the Tantramar region and New Brunswick generally, will be gone forever.

If this distresses you, write to the Board of Regents or President Campbell at rcampbell@mta.ca or sign the online petition at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/save-the-memorial-library/>

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