

## **Collective Loss of Integrity**

The saga of the Memorial Library brings up sorry thoughts of our collective loss of integrity.

First, there are the actions of a recalcitrant Mount Allison University administration, capable of stupefying stubbornness in wanting to destroy the most meaningful building on campus, the only inspiring part of the Mount Allison quadrangle, replacing it with an off-the-shelf industrial box building tarted up with red stone as if pouring syrup on callousness can bring forth inspiration.

Second, the boxy ass of the Performing Arts building is even more insulting and intrusive than the Tweedie Annex it will replace, the latter being the first transgression to befall the wonderful Cobb building.

The reaction of the inhabitants of the university is dismal, cowardly and indifferent. The reason the Memorial Library exists is because 73 Mount Allison students weren't cowardly and indifferent. They got themselves killed and strewn across Europe by giving a damn.

The Memorial Library is a registered war memorial. The 73 kids paid for it with their lives. Their parents and friends paid for most of the building. They weren't just going for a BA. They were going to their deaths. Each of us old farts who protest this travesty, aghast at the insolence of the administration wanting to destroy a registered war memorial, wants to see a Fine and Performing Arts Centre built, because it can help destroy indifference, which is the duty of a university. The administration fostering other motives is being devious.

A university lives on a mystical allure its graduates keep all their lives, and whose gratitude comes back as funding. A university is not a business, but a mystical place where raw youth is opened up wide and grown to potential. Today, much of great value is thrown away in the name of money, so-called 'moving

forward', and overt pandering. The Memorial Library dilemma is a classic example. There is equity in this building, visual, reflective, and emotional, and it, as part of the valued persona of Mount Allison, will provide growing funding interest each year it exists.

To destroy this part of the university is classically short-sighted. To retain and exalt the Memorial Library is to overcome the indifference that now plagues Mount Allison, threatens its leadership position and potentially reduces it to being just another university. Wake up.

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Save the Mount Allison Memorial Library Committee  
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