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Older generation often decides what is saved for future

To the editor:

As previous generations have done, we are to decide which of the new developments we will adopt into our lives and society, and which of the old, established ones we will retain.

It appears that it is the younger generation that is most active in deciding which of the new developments are worthy of adoption, the young being most focused on the future. However, many of the younger generation are generally unaware of how their upbringing has been shaped by those practices, institutions and structures that have been saved from the past.

It is left mainly to the older generation to decide which of the practices, institutions and structures of today are to be saved for the future.

Sometimes the decision simply involves inactivity, such as not opposing the continuance of a practice.

At other times action is required, as when a particular building is threatened with destruction.

We currently do have a building scheduled for demolition. It is an impressive, stone structure of pleasing design, in an attractive setting and familiar in the eyes of many over a number of generations.

This is the Memorial Library Building on the Mount Allison Campus.

It is realized by all that there are costs in retaining such buildings, just as it is accepted that all buildings require maintenance and occasional refurbishment.

It is a surprise to no one that similar historic structures, which are eagerly photographed by travelers throughout Britain and Continental Europe, require upkeep expenditures.

Balancing the costs of retention, of course, are the savings in reusing the structure; in the case of the Memorial Library Building, the structure may be used as a functional and aesthetic part of the new fine and performing arts centre.

I believe that the Memorial Library Building should be saved from destruction and I urge those who agree to make their views known.

Jerry Hannah
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