

For some time now I have been reading a variety of articles on the Memorial Library. These articles have been written from a variety of perspectives and from a growing number of individuals. Each author aside from indicating their surprise if not shock that Mount Allison University, so steeped in history and seemingly a respect for tradition would even consider the destruction of one of its most illustrious buildings has indicated a host of reasons why such a desecration should not take place. Architects, historians, war veterans, citizens far and wide and alumni have all added their voices in increasing numbers to the growing chant to save the Memorial Library from senseless destruction. However, sadly these voices seem to be falling on deaf ears.

I recently read an article in the Mount Allison Alumni magazine, RECORD once again touting the necessity of tearing down one of Sackville's most historic building which happens to be on the Mount Allison Campus. The article espoused Mount Allison's record with regard to renovating historic buildings...wonderful I am thinking....it then went on to say... 'oh but we have to tear down our most historic and significant one because....well...its 'tired'. If you are really committed to preserving your heritage Mount Allison, as you say, then add the Memorial Library to that list! I've always thought that Mount Allison was full of really smart people. Well maybe so but how smart is someone who doesn't listen to the people that pay the bills or the community in which it thrives? Is alienating your alumni a smart move? The article ends by saying that the drawings of the new Performing Arts Center will be available soon and that feedback is invited. WOW...is feedback also invited on the proposed destruction of the Memorial Library? Why is the request for feedback so selective?

I implore Mount Allison to do the right thing before its too late for reasons which are clear and that others have recited with much more eloquence and with much more expertise than I could hope to articulate. Additionally and unfortunately the university must now also deal with a public relations fiasco. Well over a thousand prospective funders have signed a petition which grows daily asking the university to rethink the destruction of the Memorial Library. As the result, sadly, there is now concern that the university can raise the funds they need for the performing arts center (which, by the way we ALL want contrary to rumours that so called 'malcontents' don't want there to be a performing arts center. For the record...we want to KEEP the Memorial Library and we WANT the Performing Arts Center! I've not heard one comment to the contrary).

Please Mount Allison, engage your alumni and community. We all want Mount Allison and Sackville to thrive and move forward but in ways that respect our heritage and values and the wishes of its citizens.

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Sackville resident