

18 Sept. 2011

Mr. McCubbin, Chair,
Mount Allison Board of Regents,

In 1941 I entered the Mount Allison School for Girls, graduating from there in 1945. In 1949 I graduated from the Mount Allison Conservatory. In the 1980's and 1990's, I was a member of the Mount Allison Alumni Board and the Board of Regents. In 1999, I was the recipient of the Charles Frederic Allison Award.

I feel I have a right to express my distress at the action the Board of Regents, The Chancellor and the President are taking regarding the proposed demolition of the Memorial Library. with what appears to be complete disregard of the concerns of a large number of the Alumni and others.

I have no quarrel with a new Fine Arts complex, but I fail to understand why the Memorial Library cannot be architecturally incorporated into the new structure...a melding of history and modernity.

To my mind, using the stones to build an amphitheatre is insulting to the original reason for building the Memorial Library. I also suggest, that while an amphitheatre sounds very special, practically, it's upkeep would be very expensive, given the Sackville winters. It is not a suitable resting place for the stones of the Memorial Library.

Mount Allison is very proud to have had so many Rhodes Scholars - and where do they go? - to Oxford to study in centuries old buildings, redolent with history. Such buildings are rare in Canada. You are about to demolish one of those few.

What appears to be a blatant disregard for the eloquent letters written to the Board and the President is mystifying.

I dearly love Mount Allison, having spent all my teen years there. I owe much to the wonderful teachers and friends that I met in that time. I have been pleased to support Mount Allison in any way I can, both monetarily and socially. My Mother and daughter both attended Mt.A.

However, in view of the intractable actions taken with regard to the Memorial Library I will not be as ready to offer support in the future.

" To you from failing hands we throw
the Torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, tho' poppies grow
in Flanders fields."

Patricia Saunders McKinna, '45 and '49