

Memorial Library Update No.5, 12 June 2011

Hello fellow members of the Alumni & friends of Mt A,

If you have not received information and occasional updates about the Mount Allison Memorial Library before, it means that you are new to the undisclosed recipient list. Background information and correspondence about the issue can be found at: <http://www.eastmarket.com/smash/>. The undisclosed recipient lists are maintained as separate groups within my electronic address book and will not be disclosed or used for any other purposes.

Since my last update, there have been a few new developments in attempts to save the Mount Allison Memorial Library. An application to have the building registered as a "*Provincial Heritage Place*" has received the support of the Hon. Trevor Holder, New Brunswick Minister of Wellness, Culture and Sport. He has issued a notice called "*Intention to designate*" which has been published in the Royal Gazette and local newspapers. (see attached). This important building is now enjoying a 30 day moratorium during which nothing can be done that would alter its "*character defining elements*", as defined by Heritage New Brunswick and during which time the Minister will accept appeals. If designated, a permit would be required from the Minister to change any of the "*character defining elements*" of the building.

Another development is the registration of the Memorial Library on the "*National Inventory of Canadian Military Memorials*". This is a Federal Government designation managed by the Department of National Defence. <http://www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp/nic-inm/index-eng.asp>. Although it does not yet appear on this web site, the building, plaque and stone are now registered as number 13002-004.

All members of the informal "Save the Mount Allison Memorial Library Committee" fully support the development of a new Fine and Performing Arts Centre which is badly needed to meet the current and future needs of the Fine Arts Department and Drama program. We also know there are numerous other ways to meet these needs without the demolition of this architecturally important heritage building and war memorial. It is now apparent that the provincial and federal governments agree that this is an important building. Until recently the University Administration also agreed. In a JUMP campaign document called "Mount Allison, a decade of Achievement 2004 - 2014" (see attached) they used these words:

*"The Centre for the Arts will be constructed around the University's **historic Alumni Memorial Library building**, mixing the traditional architecture of that landmark with exciting contemporary design and state-of-the-art studios..."*

For several years funds were collected with the promise that the Memorial Library would be retained and the sacred trust past down since 1927 would remain intact. What, then has happened to our sense of heritage, our sense of justice, our sense of what is right and our honour and integrity since that time ?

Preliminary drawings for the proposed new Arts Centre (which is planned to replace the Memorial Library) are now available for viewing on the Mt A web site at: <http://www.mta.ca/fpac/>.

If you have not done so, I suggest that you take a few moments to look at the plans. This design is considered by many as appropriate for an industrial park but not suitable for the beautiful Mt A campus. The web site has a link to send feedback to the Administration. It has become apparent that the Administration is "counting" the feedback from those who support the design and those who feel that it is totally inappropriate for the campus. So, please send in your feedback. To have your comments posted where they will be more visible, consider sending them to the campus newspaper, *The Argosy* at: <http://argosy.mta.ca/?p=2254>

The online petition to save the Memorial Library now has over 28 pages of signatures at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/save-the-memorial-library/>.

More information may be found at: <http://www.eastmarket.com/smash/>

Please forward this information to other Allisonians, friends of Mt A and those concerned about the destruction of our heritage. By working together we can save this important building AND help Mt A obtain an Arts Centre worthy of her beautiful campus!