

Hello Fellow Alumni and Friends of Mt A,

The message below and its attachment were received yesterday from a colleague who has been working tirelessly in an attempt to save the historic Mount Allison Memorial Library. I echo his statement that this is a sad day, not only for the Memorial Library but also for the integrity and strength of the new Heritage Conservation Act of New Brunswick . It is my opinion that a very bad precedent has been set in which the application of political pressure can convince the Minister to say that such an important building and war memorial is not of provincial heritage status after already giving public notice that it is. What do you suppose the almost 60 New Brunswick Allisonians who sacrificed their lives in war and who are commemorated in this building and all those who contributed to this cenotaph from every province of Canada would think?

The Mount Allison Board of Regents still has the opportunity to save this architecturally important heritage building from demolition and the long term adverse impact such destruction would have on the future of our beloved university. Many other options exist for the construction of the much needed facilities for the fine and performing arts. Numerous viable options have already been identified to the Administration which has shortsightedly refused to consider them. To fulfill the responsibility bestowed upon them, the Board of Regents must be encouraged to further examine and evaluate all options.

At the Alumni AGM in May, a motion was passed to request the Board of Regents to hear a presentation from representatives of the Alumni and the "Save the Memorial Library Committee". The request was granted and a presentation was prepared for the May 17 Board meeting. At the last moment the Administration and Chairman of the Board changed their minds and would not allow this presentation to be made. It will be a sad day, indeed, if the Board allows plans for the destruction of the Memorial Library to proceed without hearing the concerns as officially requested by the Federated Alumni. If this is indicative of how the current Administration and Board view the opinions of the Alumni, we have reason for great concern.

As stated in the message below, the support of many of you has been much appreciated. Although the NB Minister of Wellness, Culture and Sport has decided not to designate the building as a Provincial Heritage Place, it does not mean that this building and all that it stands for is less important to the future of Mt A. Please continue to pressure the Board of Regents to reconsider this ill conceived idea by writing to Bruce McCubbin, chairman of the Board of Regents at [bruce.mccubbin@moosehead.ca](mailto:bruce.mccubbin@moosehead.ca) and other Regents identified in the web site below.

If the building comes down, I for one will cease to support Mount Allison. It will be small satisfaction to have my will rewritten to exclude this institution which displays so little respect for its built heritage, its past heroes or its alumni.

For more information about this issue please visit: <http://www.eastmarket.com/smash/>.

It is evident that many members of the alumni and other friends are still not aware of the intention to demolish this magnificent building and replace it with the very distasteful design put forward by the Administration (see a picture of the design on the web site above). Please help to spread the word.

With or without official provincial heritage designation, this building irrefutably adds significant heritage value to the history, tradition and architectural integrity of the Mt A campus.

Yours sincerely,  
Bruce.

Bruce Coates (Mt A class of '69)  
for: Save the Mount Allison Memorial Library Committee  
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