

Fellow Alumni and friends of Mt A,

In an attempt to quell the ever growing opposition to the planned demolition of the Memorial Library the Mt A. Administration has accelerated the destruction schedule of their War Memorial - the Memorial Library. Tenders for demolition of Memorial Library appeared in the Halifax Chronicle Herald on 2 September. See the attached scan of the ad. There is no indication in the ad that the building is Memorial Library, built as a War Memorial. It is referred to only as the "old university centre". Numerous contractors appeared to view the building on 7 September. Tenders for demolition close on 20 September.

In order to facilitate the immediate demolition of the Library building, an emergency meeting of the Properties and Facilities sub-committee of the executive committee of the Board of Regents was held on 24 August. Although objections were aired and those who oppose the destruction were "demonized" during the meeting, the committee recommended demolition. (See the attached "Obstruction of Progress" article from the 1 September issue of the *Argosy*.)

The usual October meeting of the Board of Regents has now been moved from October 14 to September 23 where it is expected a vote will be taken to proceed with demolition. As you may recall, as a result of a vote at the Alumni AGM on 14 May, an official request went to the Regents to hear a presentation from the Alumni and "Save the Memorial Library Committee" at the 17 May Board of Regents meeting. The request was granted but cancelled at the last moment. The Mt A. VP University Advancement (also known as the "spokesperson for the Board"), has indicated that a presentation will be possible at the 23 September meeting. Of course, a presentation will be made even though it is now much too late in the decision process to have the desired impact. As a former colleague was known to say, the offer to receive a presentation is "a day late and a dollar short". Still we intend to make a presentation that the Regents will find factual, informative and compelling.

In an article in the Mt A. *Argosy* on 1 September a spokesperson for the Administration was quoted as saying the Memorial Library has no status as a War Memorial. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. The building was designed, funded, built and dedicated (8 June 1927) as a War Memorial. Nothing can be done to change that. By way of illustration, the minutes of the Board of Regents meeting of 26 November 1918 stated:

*"Moved by Dr. Wigle, seconded by Rev. A S Rogers, that this Board most heartily endorses the proposition of erecting a Library Building as a War Memorial in honor of Mount Allison students who have made the supreme sacrifice in behalf of our country, and that a committee be appointed to inaugurate a campaign to raise necessary funds. Carried."*

For much more supporting evidence see the attached "War Memorial and Funding" document. Further, Memorial Library is registered as number 13002-004 on the National Inventory of Canadian Military Memorials.

Other and better options continue to be brought forward to meet the current and future needs of Fine and Performing Arts. More of those with a Mt A. Fine Arts background continue to speak out about the unnecessary destruction of the Memorial Library to make way for the proposed Fine and Performing Arts Centre. By way of example, I have attached the comments of Paul Gilbert (74), who has agreed to their distribution.

Until the wrecking ball actually swings and demolition crews start chipping away at this solid sandstone edifice, there is still a chance that this magnificent building can be saved. Alumni are still learning about this pending destruction of Mount Allison's Cenotaph. Please continue to share the news of this impending tragedy with other Allisonians and Friends of Mt A. The petition Web site now has names of fifteen hundred concerned Allisonians and Friends. The list of names and the associated heartfelt comments continues to grow:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/save-the-memorial-library/>

Updated information and advocacy letters continue to be posted on the Smash Web site:

<http://www.eastmarket.com/smash/>

Mr. Bruce McCubbin, chairman of the Board of Regents, can be reached at:

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Sincerely,

Bruce Coates (Mt A. '69)

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