

Email to some members of the Alumni & Friends – 9 May 2011

Hello again Fellow Allisonians and Friends of Mt A,

A few weeks ago many of you may have received an "open letter" from Mount Allison, co-signed by President Campbell and Mr. Bruce McCubbin, chair of the Board of Regents. The letter highlighted the real need for improved facilities for the Fine and the Performing Arts and made an attempt to rationalize the planned demolition of the **Memorial Library 1914 - 1918** to make way for such facilities. The Mt A Administration continues to say there are no other options and forges ahead with plans to demolish this architecturally important building and cenotaph. Within the last few days you may also have received a Mt A message with the preliminary drawings for the proposed new building.

Please find attached three documents which have recently been sent to the media. Many other options for the proposed Arts Centre have been identified which do not require the demolition of Memorial Library.

- One of the attached documents shows a win, win, win proposal for Mt A, the town of Sackville and the Sackville United Church. It demonstrates what could be accomplished if there were a greater will to do what is right and honourable.
- The second document is a response to Dr. Campbell and Bruce McCubbin's open letter. It identifies many controversial issues concerning the proposed destruction of Memorial Library and indicates how the Administration has stonewalled every effort to identify other, and possibly better, options for the proposed Arts Centre.
- The third document contains comments about the recently released drawings (<http://www.mta.ca/fpac/>) for the proposed new building.

I urge you to take a few moments to read these documents and to look at <http://www.eastmarket.com/smash/> for more information about the Memorial Library which has been gathered since last October when the plan to demolish the Library was first announced. If you have not looked at this site for some time, you will be impressed by the quantity and quality of the information which has been assembled by the webmaster.

Without some sort of intervention, time for the **Memorial Library 1914 - 1918** is running out. If you have not already done so, you can still help by contacting President Campbell (rcampbell@mta.ca) and Bruce McCubbin (bmccubbin@moosehead.ca) to let them know that Memorial Library is an important key to continued success for Mt A. Let them know that Memorial Library has helped to define the outstanding **brand** of the university for many decades, attracting top students and faculty. Let them know that, search as they may during their re-branding project, they will not find another icon capable of defining the Mt A brand, aura and appeal the way Memorial Library has done for so long and could continue to do for centuries to come. Ask them to please remove their blinders so that they may see, unimpeded, the wonderful possibilities that exist for a new Arts Centre and for the Memorial Library. Above all, stress that Memorial Library is a consecrated war memorial paid for by the families and friends of those who sacrificed their young lives for our freedom. It would be an immoral break of faith to needlessly destroy such a cenotaph.

Sincerely,
Bruce
Bruce Coates (class of '69)
email: eoateug@nbnet.nb.ca
phone: (506) 536 4108