

To the Editor

The reasons given by the Provincial Government for the denial of heritage status to the Memorial Library at Mount Allison University would be laughable, were it not for the fact that they will be used by the University Administration to justify the destruction of a fine old historic building.

It is true that Andrew Cobb was not born in New Brunswick. What does that matter? Neither was Charlie Van Horn or John A Macdonald. Does that mean that their works are not part of our heritage? What a load of nonsense. And even if some living members of the Legion donot regard the building as a war memorial, should that be a deciding factor? Clearly, the family members of those Mount Allison students who died in the war thought of the building as a memorial. So did Ross Flemington who, as I am sure you will agree, was an outstanding New Brunswicker and a veteran. And so do many loyal Allisonians still living and voting.

How is it possible for the government to hold a fair hearing on a controversial issue when only one side is present at the hearing? And why would a University Administration petition a Provincial Government NOT to designate one of its buildings as a heritage site? The answer to the first question is still awaited. The answer to the second question is clear. The Administration at Mount Allison wants to gain access to the prime piece of land on which this old stone building stands in order to build a new Arts Centre on the site. To make matters worse, they have paid good money to an architect (from Ontario) who has submitted drawings of the proposed new building which have all the grace and elegance of a suburban box store covered in artificial stone.

Sincerely,
Ron Boorne
Professor Emeritus of Engineering
Mount Allison University.