

Letter to the Editor

The Irony of the Memorial Library

What a day! It is the first day of October and I have just returned by car from Fredericton. There I attended a Celebration of Heritage on the University of New Brunswick campus at the official launch of a new book by John Leroux, celebrated New Brunswick author and architectural historian. The book is entitled *Building a University: the Architecture of UNB*. The book was commissioned by UNB to celebrate the 225th anniversary and traces the history of the building of the university campus.

The introductions by the President of the University, Dr. Eddy Campbell, and President Emeritus, John McLaughlin, were an inspiration to me. Both spoke with passion of the importance of architecture and our building legacy in the development of the modern campus. They remarked how appropriate it was that we were gathered together in such a wonderful building for this special Celebration.

And what building was it? It was their much-loved Memorial Hall. Built in 1923 to provide science laboratories and a hall for the ever-increasing student body, Memorial Hall satisfied an even deeper emotional need as a memorial to the 35 UNB students and alumni who died in the First World War. The building has seen many uses and today is the cherished UNB Arts Centre.

How ironic I thought. Here I am sitting in this adored building at UNB while back home in Sackville the Board of Regents of Mount Allison is convening to consider the demise of the Memorial Library, a building built at the same time as a memorial to the 73 Mt A students and alumni who died in the First World War.

I have returned to Sackville with a signed copy of *Building a University* for the President of Mount Allison University.

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