

Letter to the Editor

Mount Allison Must Do Better

Mount Allison has again been rated as the best little university in Canada in the Maclean's ranking of November 22. However that ranking may be in jeopardy as the Board of Regents has made a foolish decision. They have approved the demolition of an architectural treasure, designed by the noted Canadian architect Andrew Randall Cobb, in order to make way for the construction of a contemporary Arts Centre. Built of local red sandstone in the Tudor Revival style, the Memorial Library was opened and dedicated on June 8, 1927 in memory of the 73 young members of the Allisonian family who laid down their lives for their country in The Great War. In the Master Plan prepared by architects Diamond & Schmitt of Toronto in 2002 it was recommended that the Memorial Library should form part of the new Arts Centre. However, in 2010, the architects for the project, the Zeidler Partnership, also of Toronto, have suggested that it should be torn down. I believe no other university in Canada would take such a myopic view of its history. Today the Memorial Library still stands proudly as an integral part of a campus that Sir Charles G D Roberts described as 'the most beautiful campus that I know in Canada'. Readers, whether alumni or friends of heritage buildings, are encouraged to contact President Robert Campbell (rcampbell@mta.ca) or Chancellor Peter Mansbridge (peter.mansbridge@cbc.ca) to say, 'Mount Allison must do better'.

Robert Eaton, McGill Architecture 1964

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