

Letter to the Editor

## **Lest We Forget**

The Memorial Library stands proudly on the campus of Mount Allison University honouring the brave students, staff, faculty and alumni who gave their lives during the Great War. Designed by the eminent Halifax architect, Andrew Randall Cobb, author of the Dalhousie University master plan, the Memorial Library has been a significant element of the streetscape of the Town of Sackville for over eighty years. However the Board of Regents of Mount Allison has recently made the decision, not borne of wisdom, to destroy the Memorial Library in favour of a new iconic building.

The appeal for funds that was sent forth after World War One to construct the war memorial we know as the Mount Allison Memorial Library included the following words:

“The Executive Councils of the Alumni and Alumnae Societies, with the cordial endorsement of the Board of Regents, recently passed a resolution that an effort should be made to erect a library as a memorial to the loyalty and heroism of Mount Allison men and women in the war. On the walls will be tablets inscribed with the names of all the Mount Allison men and women in the King’s service, and emblazoned in some special way the names of the sixty who gave their lives for the Empire.

No greater service could be done for Mount Allison than to provide such a memorial building.

Apart from the needs the appeal for a memorial comes home to all. Those who have been saved the horrors of the battle front should have hearts filled with gratitude toward the men who have suffered and died in their stead. The Mount Allison boys who are out there ‘in Flanders fields’ to stay deserve all the honors a grateful country can bestow on them. It seems but a fitting thing for those of us who have enjoyed during these four years the comforts of our homes, to deny ourselves a little to erect a memorial for the men who stood between us and the foe.

If your friend has suffered, if your boy has died, how could you better honor his memory than to have his name placed where it will go down through the years cherished and revered by successive generations of grateful students?”

Lest We Forget ... !

Robert Eaton, McGill Architecture 1964

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