

Letter to the Editor:

Appeared in Argosy, SackvilleTribune, MonctonT&T and Saint John Telegraph Journal
Week of 15 November 2010.

Mount Allison's Decision To Destroy Memorial Library Shortsighted

Since 1839 Mount Allison University has stood at the edge of the Tantramar Marshes in Sackville, New Brunswick. Many distinguished alumni have gone from this institution to make their mark upon the world. For much of that time the Memorial Library, built in 1927 as a memorial to the more than 70 Allisonians who lost their lives in World War I, has graced the campus.

The decision by the Board of Regents to tear down the Memorial Library is shocking. Further to this it is unacceptable that the university has kept this information from its alumni at large. This decision was made even after the master plan done by the Toronto firm of Diamond and Schmitt Architects in 2002 recommended the Memorial Library be retained as an integral part of campus.

The Memorial Library stands solidly at the very central core of the campus adding a sense of permanence and character to the institution itself. If it is destroyed there will be an erosion of those qualities which have drawn students to Mt. A for well over 100 years.

The extra few million dollars it will take to renovate it instead of destroying it will be a small figure for the university compared to the loss of revenue it will no doubt experience as many alumni close their pocketbooks to their alma mater. **Their** university has failed to inform them of this important decision which will lead to the wilful desecration of **their** War Memorial and destroy the architectural integrity of the campus .

Eugenia (Trueman) Coates '68, '69