

Letter to the Editor;

Firstly, let me say a huge thank you to Robert Eaton for his excellent Letter to the Editor in which he sheds light on the 'rumour' that my Alma Mater is considering tearing down a piece of its own history. Mr. Eaton makes the point that the Memorial Library is not only an incredibly stunning piece of architecture but that it was designed by renowned architect Andrew Cobb. The very fact that tearing down the Memorial library is an option at all shocks me and disappoints immensely. This leads me to draw conclusions that the 'powers that be' at Mount Allison do not understand what Mount Allison stands for. Is it OK to talk about Mount Allison's traditions and history and respect for its past and then in the next breath talk about tearing down one of its finest buildings?? To even have tearing down Hesler Hall on the table is utterly appalling. As Mr. Eaton points out so aptly, would Harvard or Princeton or Dalhousie or Acadia consider tearing down any one of their heritage buildings? I think NOT!

Having gone a step further and located the proposed structural drawings that would potentially replace the Memorial Library, I am even more shocked. The three interlocking 'boxes' that would great visitors to Mount Allison and indeed Sackville as they enter our fair community are once again a real shocker! The proposed structure that would become the Performing Arts buildings for Mount Allison is not at all in keeping with the historical feel and design of the campus. We've already lost Palmer Hall, another historical building that was demolished before anyone was even aware, let's not let this happen again! Perhaps Sackville and even the province of NB have rules against such destruction.

I am most certain that this letter will be met with rhetoric about how much more cost effective it would be to tear down the Memorial Library and build 'boxes' but that argument doesn't make it folks. Mount Allison has the wherewithal to find the funds and to, instead of tearing down a stunning piece of heritage, incorporate the Memorial Library into what could be a truly magnificent design for its new Performing Arts complex. Come on guys let those creative juices flow, think out side the box, show us what can be created when you put your focus on preserving instead of destroying. Do you really think people come to Mount Allison and stroll through its courtyards to soak up its academic excellence?? NO! They come here because it's a beautiful campus and because folks from past generations felt that beauty and history should be preserved. Please Mount Allison, take the 'tear it down' option OFF the table. If not, I fear that Mount Allison will cease to be 'Mount Allison so Fair....'

Jerry Hicks
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