



## About Baybrook

Hamilton Mack Laing purchased the virgin Baybrook property in 1921 and spent the next two years clearing it, building a road into Comox, and preparing a home site. The Bay is frequented by many bird species, one of the reasons why Laing loved the location. He was a keen photographer, writer, naturalist and renowned collector for the National Museum in Ottawa.

The original seven room, three bedroom house, was completed by Laing in 1923, from a mail-order Stanhope model, Read-Cut house kit, produced by The Aladdin Co, Bay City, Michigan. The kit cost around \$690, not including shipping, and promised “knotless” red cedar siding, flooring and interior finish.

Laing married in 1927, and lived in Baybrook with his wife Ethel during his most productive years. The couple established a commercially-viable farm, harvesting filberts, hazelnuts, walnuts, pecans, apples, plums, mushrooms and several varieties of vegetable.

Ethel died in 1944. In 1949, Laing sold Baybrook and the subsequent owner added extensions. In 1950, Laing built his second home, Shakesides, in what is now the adjacent Mack Laing Nature Park, which he bequeathed to the Town of Comox in 1973. The Baybrook farm became a subdivision, except for 2.6 hectares including Baybrook house. Laing died in 1982 at the age of 99.

In 2011, the Baybrook property was purchased by the BC Nature Trust, and the Town of Comox for a public park. The site is renowned for its extensive and historically-significant ancient middens, and its spectacular view of Comox Bay.