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Partner Organizations

Comox Valley Land Trust
C.V. Environmental Council
Comox Valley Nature (CVNS)
Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society
Millard-Piercy Watershed Stewards
Morrison Creek Streamkeepers
Project Watershed Society
Tsolum River Restoration Society

Supporter Organizations

Arden Area Residents Association
Black Creek Streamkeepers
Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society
Comox Town Residents Association
C.V. Water Watch Coalition
Cumberland Community Forest
Society
Forbidden Plateau Road Residents
Association
Friends of Comox Lazo Forest
Reserve
Friends of Strathcona Park
MacDonald Wood Park Society
Oyster River Management Committee
Perseverance Creek Streamkeepers
Merville Area Resident's & Ratepayers
Association
Saratoga and Miracle Beach
Residents Association

Funding Partners

Real Estate Foundation of B.C.
Community Gaming Grant
RBC Blue Water Fund
Comox Valley Regional District

www.cvconservationstrategy.org

October 17, 2014

Re: Mack Laing and proposal for Baybrook

To Town of Comox Council:

The steering committee for the Comox Valley Conservation Strategy Community Partnership urges the Town of Comox to work with Mack Laing Heritage Society, K'ómoks First Nations, residents of the town and other groups such as Project Watershed, Comox Valley Nature, Macdonald Wood Park Society and Brooklyn Creek Stewards to honour the life and work of Mack Laing, in a manner that best addresses the interests of the various stakeholders.

Hamilton Mack Laing was a pioneer, orchardist, naturalist, author, artist and photographer, living on the estuary from 1922 until his death in 1982 at the age of 99. He and his former residence at Baybrook are of significance to the environmental and ecological history of Canada. The residence was visited by well-known naturalists and biologists of the day, and was the inspiration for many books, drawings and scientific observations.

Mack Laing generously left his property and a financial legacy to the Town for the purposes of having a publicly accessible natural history museum. The Mack Laing Society has put forward a proposal to restore the Baybrook house to fulfill the intent of Mack Laing's will.

The park site is well used and loved by Town and Valley residents alike. At this time, a number of substantive issues around use, costs and community impact remain outstanding. Resolution of these issues will require public consultation. We believe that through careful park planning and consultation, a solution can be found that establishes an appropriately scaled and managed facility that can address the interests of all stakeholders including Town residents.

The CVCS steering committee supports the concept and the importance of honouring Mac Laing's legacy and encourages the Town of Comox to work with all groups and residents to include a facility for natural history education on this site.

David Stapley,
Program Manager,
On behalf of the Comox Valley Conservation Strategy Steering
Committee