



March 26, 2015

Mayor Paul Ives and Counsel
Town of Comox

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Dear Mayor Ives and Counselors of the Town of Comox;

Recently, we learned about your decision to demolish not one but both Mack Laing Houses in your Community. It goes without saying this potential act is of great concern to naturalists, not only in your area, but to all naturalists and environmentalists in British Columbia, and yes even in Canada.

You are likely aware that Mr. Laing is a great pioneer and played a pivotal role in the natural and environmental history of Western Canada. He made many literary and scientific contributions, was instrumental in the National Museum of Canada. His expeditions associated with the Geological Survey of Canada and laid the foundations of Western Canada's ecological and economic heritage. In short, he was a giant in Canada, British Columbia and Comox.

To erase his memory would be a cultural affront to the province, the Canadian Museum of Nature, to the Geological Survey of Canada and indeed to the Town of Comox. We implore you, to respect his generous donations to the town of Comox, to follow up on his explicit directions of his will, from which the town has been a great beneficiary.

We are certain that the Geological Survey of Canada, of which I am also a direct member, the Canadian Museum of Nature, the Province of British Columbia and the Town of Comox will be very grateful to you if you continue to protect the heritage of this great Canadian.

As you might know, BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists) is the largest nature organization in British Columbia with over 5300 members and we are associated with Nature Canada. We are often invited to work closely with provincial environmental and

nature issues. We would appreciate hearing back from you at your earliest convenience.

Kees Visser, President BC Nature

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Visser" with a checkmark at the end of the line.

Cornelis (Kees) Visser

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