

# Heritage BC



June 23, 2015

Mayor Paul Ives and Council  
Town of Comox  
1809 Beaufort Ave  
Comox, BC V9M 1R9

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Baybrook

Heritage BC has been contacted a number of times by members of the Mack Laing Heritage Society and others who are concerned about the proposed demolition of the house "Baybrook" located in the Mack Laing Nature Park.

Constructed in 1922 by noted naturalist, author, and photographer Hamilton Mack Laing (1883-1982), and home to Mack Laing and his wife Ethel from 1923 to 1949, Baybrook is a significant heritage site for the province of British Columbia. The heritage values of Baybrook lie in its association with the life and work of Hamilton Mack Laing and its context within the natural surroundings of what is now Mack Laing Nature Park, a mecca for birdwatchers and constant inspiration for Mack Laing's work.

Because of Baybrook's rich heritage value, and value to the local community, province of British Columbia, and Canadians in general, we believe that Baybrook should be conserved for present and future generations. We encourage the Town of Comox to retain the Baybrook property and use the building in ways that will conserve the heritage values of this significant site while celebrating the important life and work of Mack Laing.

It is our understanding that Baybrook has been assessed by a qualified professional and deemed a candidate for heritage conservation and rehabilitation. Heritage BC would be happy to offer our assistance to the Town of Comox in this process, including advice, capacity building training, and assistance with conservation planning. The conservation of Baybrook would also be eligible for a potential grant through the Heritage Legacy Fund Heritage Conservation program administered by Heritage BC.

We write with concern for the future of the irreplaceable heritage of Baybrook and encourage the Town of Comox to consider alternatives to the demolition of this important heritage resource in your community.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Molloy, Executive Director

Janice Henry, Chair