



*Patron: His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada*

*Président d'honneur : Son Excellence le très honorable David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Gouverneur général du Canada*

July 31, 2015

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

Re: Proposed demolition of Mack Laing House

Your Worship and Members of Council,

As the national voice for the conservation of built heritage in Canada, the National Trust for Canada is following with interest the proposed demolition of the Mack Laing House known as “Baybrook” located in the Mack Laing Nature Park in Comox. Concern about the future of this important heritage site has been brought to our attention by Heritage BC, the Mack Laing Heritage Society of the Comox Valley, and others.

Baybrook was the home of esteemed naturalist, collector, author and educator Mack Laing (1883-1982) from the time of its construction in 1922 until 1949, representing his most active and prolific period of research and writing. The natural setting in Mack Laing Nature Park contributes to the heritage significance of Baybrook, which is so closely tied to this important Canadian conservationist.

Property assessments undertaken by both a professional structural engineer and architect have concluded that Baybrook can be carefully rehabilitated and adapted to a new public use. And the Mack Laing House Conservation Committee has submitted two reports that provide viable options for the future of the site and propose strategies for a cost-effective rehabilitation.

The National Trust urges the Town of Comox to reconsider its decision to demolish this important heritage property. We encourage you to recognize the heritage significance of Baybrook and to take advantage of Heritage BC’s offer of assistance in conservation planning and capacity building training that will help ensure its retention and adaptive reuse for future generations.

Yours sincerely,



Natalie Bull
Executive Director

cc. Hon. John Duncan, MP, Vancouver Island North and Minister of State and Chief Government Whip
Hon. Peter Fassbender, MLA Surrey-Fleetwood and Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural
Development
Kathryn Molloy, Executive Director, Heritage BC
Kate Panayotof, President, Mack Laing Heritage Society
Dr. Loys Maingon, President, Comox Valley Naturalists Society