

# Mack Laing's legacy much richer than what rotting wood can offer

**Dear editor,**

I have always been interested in history. My favourite topic for reading has been historical material and travelling around the world. I have spent many happy hours exploring historic sites, museums and monuments, and learning the history of the region.

I always equate history with the people who left behind legacies such as art, inventions, ideas, and so on. I cannot possibly equate Mack Laing with a rotten wooden structure. He left a legacy of a person who was an ornithologist, naturalist, environmentalist and so on. These are the essence of Mack Laing,

his spirit you could say. It is the spirit of an individual and his hopes we must preserve. Mack wanted a nature education centre established and more praise to him for this.

However, I am sure that he never anticipated that his wooden house would eventually end up as most wooden structures

here do. Historically, we did not build stone buildings, so this is our heritage. Our aboriginal people are masters of preserving their past by means of oral history. Perhaps we could start saving our history in saving the spirit and dreams of our earliest citizens and not dwell on rotten wood. It would make a lot

of sense to raise money for an educational, interpretative centre located elsewhere or even on a seasonal basis in a central location easily accessible. I cannot see any reason to donate money for a rotten, derelict building.

**Shirley McLoughlin**  
Comox

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