



March 9, 2017

Town of Comox, C/O R. Kanigan
1809 Beaufort Ave. Comox BC, V9M 1R9
town@comox.ca

Re: Support of Mack Laing Nature House

Mr. Kanigan;

This letter is in support of the development of Hamilton Mack Laing's former home "Shakesides" as a public nature or natural history house, as expressed in his Trust of 1982.

A primary purpose of BC Nature is to foster an awareness, appreciation, and understanding of our natural environment, and to know Nature and to keep it worth knowing. We represent a Federation of over 50 conservation and naturalist clubs throughout BC, which number more than 6,300 members, including Comox Valley Naturalists Society (CVNS).

Mack Laing was an important conservationist and field researcher, and published or supported the data collection that is still relevant today. BC Nature feels it is vitally important to preserve his legacy in a tangible form, and to continue to promote his desire to introduce the general public to an appreciation and knowledge of the natural world around us. Having a nature house in the Mack Laing Park will only add to its attraction, as well as increasing the attraction of the other nearby parks like MacDonald Wood.

While realizing that the expense of running such an endeavour may take resources away from other worthwhile community projects, it is important to realize that the Town of Comox may be able to get monetary and expertise support from both conservation and government organizations which would reduce the cost to your local taxpayer. BC Nature urges you to consider the proposal of CVNS before you move forward with your resolution to demolish "Shakesides".

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Yours truly,

Alan E. Burger, PhD
President: BC Nature
(Federation of BC Naturalists)