

EVENING INCLUDES:

Screening:

The Conquest of Mount Logan

43 minutes of 16 mm footage filmed by Mack Laing and Allen Carpe for the National Museum of Canada in 1925

Guests' words:

Richard Mackie, Mack Laing biographer

Trevor Mark Hughes, author

Thomas Dishlevoy, restoration architect

Cale Lacasse, construction contractor

Book Table:



***Riding the Continent
1915: Another
True Adventure***
by
Hamilton Mack Laing

— Edited by Trevor Mark Hughes

The Mack Laing Heritage Society celebrates an esteemed Canadian worthy of remembering. The Society is committed to honouring the spirit and intent of the Will and Trust of Hamilton Mack Laing and the Town of Comox. Restoring his Comox home, *Shakesides*, has the support of dozens of trades people and local suppliers in the Comox Valley.

BUSINESSES COMMITTED TO MAKING IT HAPPEN:

Lacasse Construction, Mike Hamilton Logging,
Thomas Dishlevoy - Architect,
Green Forest Products,
Nystrom Roofing, Cedar Grove Roofing,
Three Oaks Flooring, Bartle & Gibson,
Windsor Plywood, Comox Valley Glass,
ANCE Building Services, E.B. Horsman and Son,
Cloverdale Paint, Frank Excavating,
Simply Quality Painting, B. Frank Electric,
Modern Doors and Windows

YOUR HELP IS WELCOME!

With your support and that of the many others, we can achieve the Nature House as envisioned by Mack who, like Aldo Leopold, was generations ahead of his time in his care for the environment.

- Read the Business Plan and Statement of Significance:
- Become a member of Mack Laing Heritage Society.

www.macklaingsociety.ca

**THE CONSERVATION OF SHAKESIDES FOR THE QUIET
ENJOYMENT OF THE PUBLIC AS A NATURE HOUSE, IS A
PROUD COMMUNITY PROJECT.**

THE CONQUEST OF MOUNT LOGAN



The gruelling, epic expedition filmed by
Hamilton Mack Laing in 1925

Thursday, November 7, 2019

7:00 pm

**Comox Legion Hall
1825 Comox Avenue**

**Admission Free
Donations gratefully accepted**

Presented by the
Mack Laing Heritage Society

INFORMATIVE EXTRACTS:

The idea of climbing Mt. Logan was born under the direction of Colonel W.W. Foster, Pres. of the Alpine Club of Canada, in 1925 and required 3 years of planning and preparation.

Funded by the National Museum of Canada, the Royal Geographical Society and the Canadian and American Alpine Clubs, eight men made up the climbing party.

“Greater hardships have probably never been experienced in any mountaineering expedition.”
– Alpine Journal (1925)



Having previously worked with Percy Taverner (Chief Ornithologist) and Dr. R.M. Anderson (Chief Mammalogist), both of the National Museum, Mack Laing was appointed by the Canadian Government to join the expedition as a naturalist to study and collect birds, plants and mammals of the Chitina Valley.

Additionally, he was sent to Seattle to learn motion picture photography in order to document the expedition; he was authorized to shoot 4000 feet of film. Anderson later paid him a compliment: “As far as we could see, a professional movie man could not have done any better”.

From Seattle, he travelled by steamship to McCarthy, Alaska where he joined the other members of the Mt. Logan expedition.

In addition to undertaking the filming, Mack had collected 245 plants, 203 birds and 61 mammals. From a scientific point of view the expedition was a great success.

When in 1939 the plants collected from the Chitina Valley were finally examined, one was found to be new to science, the plant, an antennaria, was named *Antennaria Laing* in honour of its discoverer.
- *Hunter Naturalist*, Richard Mackie



A “Motorcycle-Naturalist” was how Hamilton Mack Laing described himself, ...and he would continue to do so for years after completing his 1915 motorcycle journey across the United States... He had first discovered the motorcycle, a new-fangled bit of technology in 1914, when he purchased his first bike, a new Harley-Davidson 10-F... and the following year he would use, a Harley-Davidson 11-F [he named *Barking Betsy*] to fulfill his dream to ride across the continent.
— *Riding the Continent*, Trevor Mark Hughes

EVERYBODY LOVES A MYSTERY!

This picture of Mack was taken at *Shakesides*.
Can you help identify the student at his side?

Mack was committed to imparting his vast research and knowledge of the natural world his entire life. In this picture, taken just a few years prior to his passing we see his enthusiasm for teaching.



Mack Laing’s vision was to preserve his home *Shakesides* as a Nature House, for future generations, as a place of learning about the natural world and our heritage. To fulfill this vision, Mack entered into a legal Trust with the Town of Comox in 1973, nine years prior to his passing at home in 1982.

