



Comox Valley Project Watershed Society

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Town of Comox,
1809 Beaufort Ave
Comox, BC
V9M 1R9

July 30th, 2019

Dear Mayor Arnott and Council members:

Project Watershed is providing a letter of support for enhanced preservation of Mack Laing's legacy property including the maintenance of the Shakesides house.

In recent years, the actions taken by the Town of Comox have not aligned with the intention of the legacy property, nor with the conservation values and efforts that the community supports. Project Watershed recognizes the social and ecological value of this legacy property on the K'omoks Estuary. Our intention is to raise concern with the Town of Comox for immediate action to prevent further degradation of this key property.

The Town of Comox must consider the long term and far reaching effects of decisions it makes with regard to this legacy property and future legacy properties of ecological importance in Canada. This property adds a portion of land along the shoreline of an estuary with international significance. The property's enriched ecological value was recognized by Mr. Laing and demonstrated by his efforts to ensure its protection in perpetuity. Mr. Laing trusted his municipality to ensure that these protection measures would be maintained. It is disappointing and striking that a trusted government body would allow this responsibility to corrode. The implications of this breach of trust to other legacy properties and donors must not be overlooked.

Project Watershed encourages the Town of Comox to move towards meaningful engagement with community groups and others to ensure the best interests of maintaining the values of the Mack Laing legacy property.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Heidrick", is written over a faint horizontal line.

Bill Heidrick

Vice Chair,
Comox Valley Project Watershed Society