



Mack Laing Trust - Public Engagement
Meeting & Participatory Workshop
Town of Comox

Nazaneen Dizai

Founder, 50th Parallel Public Relations

Close to a decade of experience working with Indigenous communities and government agencies. Specialties include building capacity, communications strategies and community engagement.

Kitsumkalum First Nation | Terrace, BC
2013 - 2017

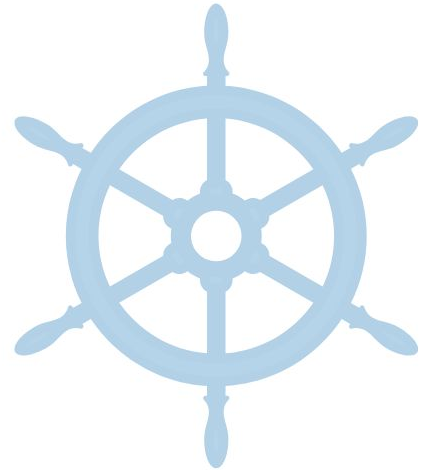
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council | Port Alberni, BC
Since 2016

K'ómoks First Nation | K'ómoks Valley, BC
Since 2017



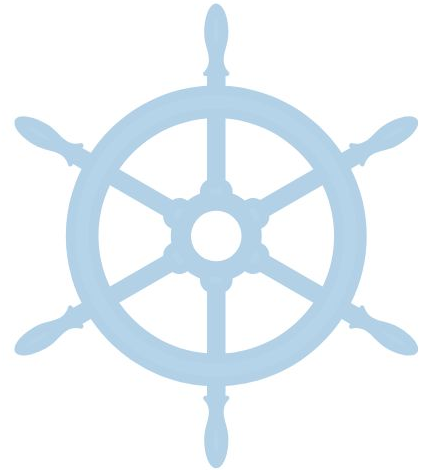
KFN Acknowledgement

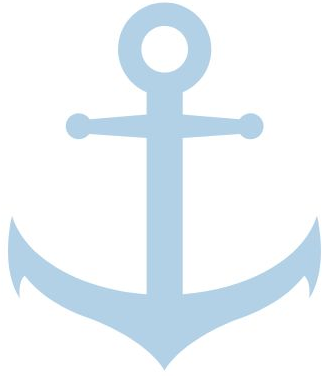
We would like to respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation.



Conditions for Success

- Participate- share your unique perspective
- Be brief and meaningful when voicing your opinion to ensure everyone is heard
- One conversation at a time
- Be positive and open to ideas
- Listen to understand and see the situation from a perspective other than your own
- Challenge ideas, not people
- Stay focused on the topic





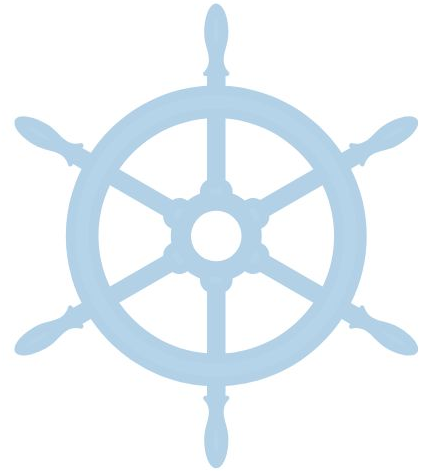
Overview

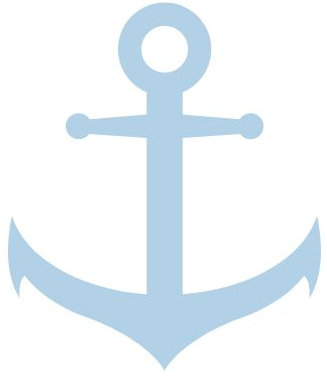
- Purpose of Meeting
- History
- Modification of Mack Laing Trust
- Proposal of Viewing Site/Platform - Al Fraser & Tim O'Brien
- Engagement Workshop
- Wrap-Up
- Closing Remarks by Mayor Arnott

Purpose of Meeting

The Town of Comox's Council has resolved to move forward with the modification of the Mack Laing Trust.

Today we will be looking for input and feedback from the community on the proposed viewing site/platform.



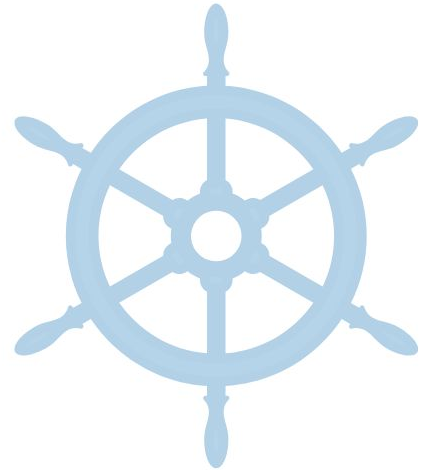


History

- Mack Laing Nature Park, an 8.3-acre parcel situated on the shore of Comox Bay, was originally owned by Hamilton Mack Laing (Mack Laing), a prolific naturalist, photographer, writer, artist and ornithologist.
- He built his home (Shakesides) on the property in **1950**. In **1973**, Mack Laing deeded his property and home to the Town of Comox in trust and perpetuity to be used as a public nature park with the use of it over his lifetime.

History

- Mack Laing lived in Shakesides until his death in **1982**. The residual cash from his estate (~ \$48,000) was left to the Town in trust "for the improvement and development of his home as a natural history museum," and to support its ongoing operations.
- At the time the Town did not consider the funds to be sufficient and placed the money in the H.M. Laing Trust Fund while looking for other funding.



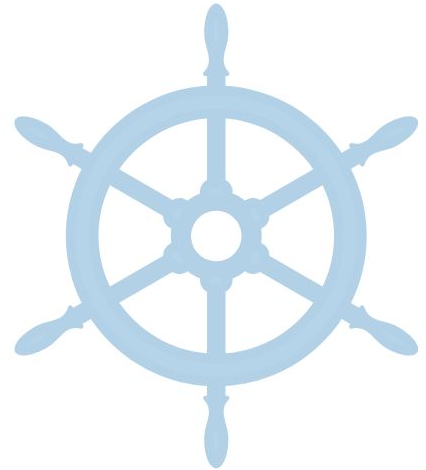



History

- Between **1982-2000**, the Town spent some of the funds from the Trust Fund to improve the surrounding park and memorialize Mack Laing.
- In **2017**, these funds plus interest were repaid to the Trust Fund because they were not authorized as part of the terms of the Trust.

Modification of the Mack Laing Trust

- The Trust Fund currently holds ~ **\$261,474 (Dec. 2018)**.
- **The Town now seeks to modify the Trust Fund and construct a viewing platform since it is unable to carry out the charitable objectives of the will due to insufficient funds**
- The Town has obtained preliminary design and cost estimates for a platform that has a height and roofline replicating Shakesides, as well as the intention to incorporate some materials from the original home.

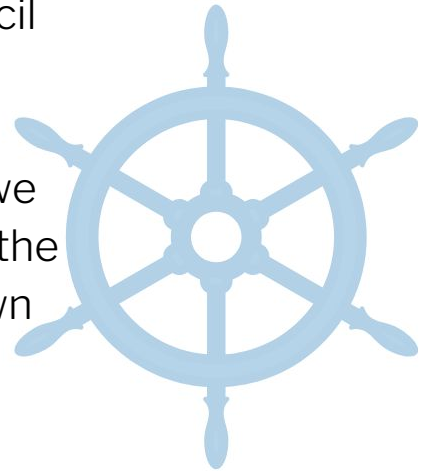


The background of the slide is a close-up, low-angle shot of water splashing, creating a bokeh effect of light blue and white droplets. The overall color palette is a range of blues, from deep navy to light sky blue. The text is centered and rendered in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Proposal of Viewing Site/Platform – Al Fraser & Tim O'Brien

Workshop Overview

- 45 minutes - 1 hour
- A member of the committee/Town will participate and answer questions at each table
- Work as a group to add comments and questions to the concept design and question sheets on your table
- Please leave concept designs and question sheets at your workstation (so they can be reviewed/considered as Council moves forward)
- Designate a member of your team as a presenter
- Use the Post-Its at your table to leave any questions that we haven't answered, along with your contact information on the sign-in sheets provided and a representative from the Town will respond.



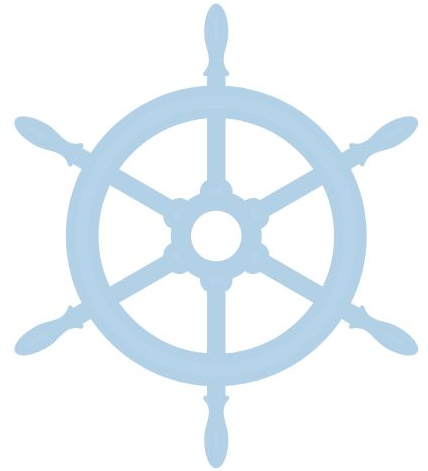


Limitations

- Funds may not be used towards improvements of the Park
- Funds may not be used for the removal of the current structure. This expense will be covered the Town.
- Funds must be used to towards furthering an interest in natural history.

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Questions

1. What are your initial thoughts about what is being proposed?
2. What specifically do you like?
3. What don't you like?
4. Do you envision something different? If so, what?

Contact Information

We will be accepting additional input until Friday, March 29th.

Please send comments or questions to Twyla Slonski at twyla@comox.ca



Table Reflections and Wrap-up