

FINAL REPORT FOR VINTAC FOR 2018

Polly and I attended the Vintac meeting in Port McNeill on October 22. This meeting was a basic report of 2018 tourist trade to date. Destination British Columbia (DBC) was there giving their summation on the tourism conference held at the Kwa'lilas Hotel in September. DBC was very impressed and in the future will be looking forward to holding the annual conference in smaller communities instead of focusing on larger cities in the province. It was disappointing that none of our share holders made any effort to be a part of it.

The financials reported show a steady increase over previous years tourist trade and generally more than predicted. It is interesting to note that tourism is now the largest industry in the province, the figures are quite staggering. Vintac always sends copies of the minutes to the village office if anyone is interested in looking at them, I am sure Bonnie could provide a copy.

I attended the last meeting of the year in Port Hardy on November 22. This meeting was to set forth the plan for 2019. The markets that VINT is targeting will continue to grow this industry on the north end of the island. There is a growing demand for adventure tourism as well as cultural tourism and this is a target that the north island is filling successfully, and there is room for more stakeholders.

In the last two years since I was appointed to Vintac and Polly was appointed as an alternate we have looked at different avenues to bring the tourists to Port Alice. We pushed for ATV's to be given access to services with permits from the RCMP. This is something to encourage as the figures show that the average ATVer spends about \$200/day. This of course covers hotel, restaurant and souvenir costs. While that is something, we are hard pressed to offer, we do have other resources. The Campbell River ATV Club is very interested in this area and it might be a consideration to contact their club president.

We also ran the "Name the Road" contest and it proved quite interesting and has encouraged people to come have a look. There have been a couple nay-sayers but on the whole over 90% of the comments made to Polly and I were very favorable, with the name "Frigon Road". We are seeing it being used more and more such as the Frigon Book Club and the Frigon Cookbook, and on T-shirts and hoodies that say "I drove the Frigon Road".

One of the harder ventures to bring to fruition was Port Alice Tourism but it did happen and is now a select committee of the village council. The committee had a meeting on November 26 and there are some encouraging plans being discussed. The committee has some very good ideas to work on. At this time, I don't feel that I have the time nor the energy to invest in Port Alice Tourism that it needs and deserves, so I have stepped down as chairperson. Hopefully the remaining committee members can find more locals, particularly stakeholders, and elect a new chairperson at the next meeting.

It has been an interesting two years taking on tourism in Port Alice and I feel that both Polly and myself gave it our best efforts and did make progress. The hardest hill to climb was getting the villagers to realize how important tourism is to the growth of our beautiful little community. This will continue to be a challenge for Port Alice Tourism.

In closing, on behalf of Polly and myself, I thank the village council of Port Alice for this opportunity to encourage and grow tourism in this community that we are so fortunate to live in.

Good luck in all future endeavors.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rose Klein Beekman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rose Klein Beekman

December 6, 2018