

NANAIMO TOURISM BULLETIN

May 2018

Another Hotel Development Cancellation a Blow to Nanaimo

According to the realtor, the owners of the property at 15 Front Street have decided to sell due to increased construction costs (projected costs are now over \$13 million, a significant increase from the \$8 million that was budgeted) and the inability to find a hotel operator. The property owners had been granted a 10-year tax exemption as long as building was taking place on the property before the end of this year.

Frank Bourree, FCMC, Partner

- It's not too early to start planning to attend the 2018 Tourism Vancouver Island Conference and AGM which will be held in Port Hardy, September 25-27. In addition to a variety of breakout sessions, keynote speakers and networking opportunities, delegates will enjoy a gala dinner which includes the much anticipated Vancouver Island Tourism Awards program and a live auction. Register here: www.tvconference.ca.
- According to *Tourism Review News*, accommodation, local transportation and attractions in some tourist destinations such as Vancouver and Banff are already fully booked for the summer of 2018. While, on the one hand, this is good news, Destination Canada notes that these kind of capacity issues are likely to slow tourism growth in Canada in coming years. Increasing capacity and developing new products will not happen overnight and will require concerted cooperation and investment from all levels of government and the private sector.
- Destination BC recently announced a three-year commitment to provide \$1.825 million in base funding to B.C.'s ~100 community Visitor Centres. This funding will support improved long-term business planning, help increase stability, and allow for innovation. In light of this announcement, it's timely to note that the number of visitors using the services of Nanaimo's Visitor Centre has been steadily increasing, rising from 8,780 in 2012, to 13, 264 in 2015 and 22, 755 in 2017. YTD 2018 (January – June), the number of Visitor Centre users in Nanaimo is up by 47% compared to the same period last year.

TOURISM STATISTICS	May		Variance	Year to Date		Variance
	2018	2017		2018	2017	
Average Occupancy	72.96%	76.03%	(3.07%)	67.10%	67.31%	(0.21%)
Average Daily Room Rate	\$134.97	\$128.85	\$6.12	\$121.68	\$120.22	\$1.46
Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR)	\$98.47	\$97.96	\$0.51	\$81.65	\$80.92	\$0.73
BC Ferries (Tsawwassen – Duke Point)						
Vehicles	66,885	62,266	7.42%	263,058	250,523	5.00%
Passengers	144,912	133,846	8.27%	564,738	540,650	4.46%
Buses	62	78	(20.51%)	240	307	(21.82%)
BC Ferries (Horseshoe Bay–Departure Bay)						
Vehicles	107,921	107,345	0.54%	420,445	415,523	1.18%
Passengers	294,116	288,619	1.90%	1,133,405	1,127,876	0.49%
Buses	328	328	-	755	782	(3.45%)
Nanaimo Airport	34,289	29,746	15.27%	152,760	136,891	11.59%
Vancouver Island Conference Centre	3,717	1,597	132.75%	7,712	9,988	(22.79%)

Quotations and reproductions of statistics provided in the Victoria and Nanaimo Tourism Bulletins are permitted with credits to Chemistry Consulting Group. Note that year-to-date data may not reflect statistical updates that agencies make to historical data after the fact.