

KAKE On The Comeback

by Ricardo Worl

KAKE has experienced great economic growth in recent years.

The economic outlook is promising for the community of just under 800 residents. The village will receive another \$19 million in public facilities improvements over the next three years. Some of the projects include harbor, airport, road and ferry dock improvements. To address the shortage of housing, HUD will begin construction of 20 units in the next year and Kake Tribal Corporation (the Native village corporation) purchased 20 used mobile home units for the community.

Kake's public facilities upgrades will compliment private sector economic development. The harbor

improvements will benefit Kake's fishing and seafood industry. IFQ, or individual fishing quotas, have added stability for local fishermen. The village has a successful hatchery as well as a salmon ham facility. The community has plans to expand its line of products to include salmon caviar, salmon jerky, dried salmon and pet snacks. The tribal government is training several members to become certified and licensed sport fishing guides.

Kake's tribal government, the Organized Village of Kake (OVK), is banking on the growth of the community. They recently opened the Keex Kwaan Lodge, a 12-room state-of-the-art hotel and mini-restaurant. OVK expects to cater to government and business travelers.

While big tour operators have yet to find their way to Kake, local residents are optimistic that their village has plenty to offer to visitors. Bears, whales, fishing,

dock and airport facilities, waterfront views and smiles are an excellent formula for attracting visitors.

With or without tourism, the community can provide jobs for its residents. Fishing, seafood processing and public facilities improvements have the town hustling during the summer season. The city government and the tribal government will utilize Kake Tribal Corporation's construction subsidiary as a contractor in their improvement projects. Last summer approximately 40 non-residents were hired to fill vacant positions. Even high school kids have the opportunity to work.

Kake has worked hard to establish the infrastructure necessary to grow with the future. Their current objectives are to improve the airport to allow larger aircraft and to find a less expensive way to generate electricity for the community ■

"Working with NBA is a piece of Kake."



BUSINESS:

Waterfront Lodge

OWNER:

Patricia and Gary Handy

BANK:

National Bank of Alaska

PROFILE:

"My mother opened the lodge in 1961 with only seven rooms. Two years ago NBA helped finance the construction of eight additional rooms. We are right on the beach in downtown Kake and boast one of the most spectacular views in Southeast Alaska. I know most of our customers personally. My home-cooked meals are excellent, which keeps everyone coming back."

ADVICE:

"My husband, our two kids and I all work very hard to get everything done, which includes cooking, cleaning, repairs and accounting. We pride ourselves in providing quality service. When it comes to banking, we get that same sort of quality service from our bank. NBA has people who work hard for us. When my husband and I are ready to retire and hand the business over to our kids, we can take comfort knowing that NBA is our bank."

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