



September 8, 2014 Report to City Council on work June 18 - August 29

- Business Attraction:
 - Continuing work with three unrelated companies, each of which would be utilizing wood biomass to create a very high value product.
 - Continuing to explore feasibility of 'Sprout' concept (businesses starting in small footprint thus reducing costs of conforming to Codes)
 - Packaging investment opportunities for Pattison Group
 - Supported realtor's discussion with new housing proponent
 - Introduced potential investor to key sites development opportunities
 - Assisted Port Authority's response to preliminary site inquiry

- Business Retention & Expansion:
 - Continuing Alberni Valley Regional Airport improvement discussions
 - Met with proponents of micro-brewery
 - Assisted efforts to establish a food truck business here
 - Assisting efforts to establish satellite tourist centre at Sproat Lake Landing
 - Attended Vancouver Island Economic Alliance meeting on future forest products
 - Wrote support letter for RAW Spirit to Groundfish Development Authority
 - Received proposals for increasing profitability of McLean Mill/steam train
 - Researched aspects of Labour Force for local business proposal

- Diversify Economy:
 - Continuing District Energy System negotiations
 - Assisting efforts of local entrepreneurs to get into new product line
 - Continuing discussions to hold marine trades training conference here
 - Assisting successful efforts to land spring 2015 Municipal Information Systems Association conference in Port Alberni
 - Assisted efforts to establish floating B&B/restaurant
 - Preparing applications for infrastructure funding to ICET for Roger Creek trails and salmon stewardship centre at Centennial Pier
 - Met with local entrepreneur who is getting a 'different read' on visitor interests

- Marketing:
 - Continued to assist marketing of Steam Train and McLean Mill
 - Supported creation of "Heart of Vancouver Island' Facebook page
 - Wrote article on Lower Johnston Road for Business Examiner
 - Continued to develop content for new City website
 - Met with Toronto journalist doing story on Port Alberni
 - Developing 'Sounds of the Valley' contest with PEAK Radio
 - Assisted promotion of changes to Chinook catch for Salmon Festival derby

Pat Deakin, Economic Development Manager