

Gift 'N Gab

Audio Clip 1: Introduction to Gift 'N Gab

Kathie: When we moved from Edmonton four years ago, I paid attention that there were no little shops along the way. When my husband and I go out for day trips, we like to stop at little stores along the way that are just kind of tucked away somewhere that you don't really see a lot of. So, there was nothing coming down from Edmonton for anybody traveling alongside the North Thompson River (Hwy 5) to Kamloops, Kelowna, or wherever they're going west of here. I wasn't purposely looking for a place to open a business when we bought this place. It just was here, and I thought maybe that's okay because I don't want to have to drive to Kamloops to go to work, right? I wondered what I should do. I always wanted to own a café, but when I started looking into it, I realized there were a lot of hoops to jump through—you need health inspections, plans, and blah, blah, blah—and, I thought, a gift shop will do.

Q: So, you bought the place without having the gift shop idea?

Kathie: Yeah.

Q: I mean, you knew it would be commercial of some sort, right?

Kathie: I knew we would do something in here, but no, we didn't have a clear plan of what it was going to be. I thought more about there not being any kind of First Nations businesses along this tourist road. There's nothing in Blue River; there's nothing in Valemount, and Valemount is huge for snowmobilers. Not so much their wives, so kind of a guy town and probably not a lot of shoppers. The longer I thought about it, maybe a gift shop that focused on First Nations' arts and crafts would work. Maybe? For example, you look in Vancouver, and there's tons down in Gastown, right? They're always busy. I thought, okay, that's what I'm going to do. So, we set out, got the business all incorporated, and I did all my paperwork.

Please note that this transcript has been slightly modified; it is not a verbatim copy of the original audio clip.