



# Seldovia Gazette

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57 °F / 14 °C

Light Rain

at 4:53 PM



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### The Bridgekeeper's Inn *by Charity Winters*



The Bridgekeeper's Inn stands quietly at the mouth of the bridge over Seldovia's slough. The quaint little bed and breakfast offers its visitors a chance to enjoy some tranquil beauty as well as become part of one of Seldovia's most active spots in the summertime. Valerie and Kevin Morin will soon be finishing up their second season at the Bridgekeeper's Inn this summer. It has been a successful year for the couple – almost doubling their business since last season. Located permanently in Kenai, the Morins have been visiting Seldovia off and on for several years and find that Seldovia has offered them a beautiful place to find peace and rest and to share it with others.

Soon, Valerie and Kevin were looking for land and in 2000 they bought two lots on the slough. There they set up a camper and enjoyed a few quiet summers. The Bridgekeeper's Inn was built and opened in 2001 by Claude and Kari Hulien (the couple who also worked on the Rocky Ridge Trail). Valerie used to help Kari out at the B&B and loved everything about the little business. When it went up for sale a few years later, Valerie was heartbroken. Finally, in February of 2005, Valerie decided she had to try to make it work and she and Kevin bought the inn.

Making the business work out of their home base in Kenai can be



tricky at times. Both Valerie and Kevin grew up there and met through the Peninsula Dancers dance troop they were both part of. They have since raised two children and run a family business. Valerie is active in the women's ministry at their church. Since both children and business and church are still in Kenai, their commitment to the community runs deep and it can be hard to spend all summer in Seldovia.

However, the Morins are determined to make their Seldovia retreat work. Valerie talked openly of her plans to enhance her flower gardens and to aim her advertising at a variety of different interest groups. She has been able to become increasingly involved in the community and excitedly discussed some of her and Kevin's many ideas to grow the town of Seldovia. For now, Valerie is very content to enjoy her inn and pick salmonberries and offer a lovely haven to all who visit.

One Fourth of July day in 1999, the Morins made their first trip up the slough on their boat. It was one of those gorgeous Seldovia days that reminds its inhabitants just why they work so hard to live here and beckons to its visitors. A beckoning that Valerie referred to as the "siren song of Seldovia". A glimpse of a little blue slough house stole Valerie's heart completely that day and all she knew was that one day, she wanted one.





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