

Mining Matters

A-TYPICAL BUSINESSMAN'S PROFILE

With six Smithers-based companies, an average of 40 seasonal employees ("Seventy in a good year..."), and a passport dotted with worldwide travel, 27-year old Kyler Hardy doesn't appear to be your average mining businessman: no suit, no Vancouver office, no grey hair.

"I started out in drilling eight or nine years ago," says Hardy, "working for [local companies] Hy-Tech, Driftwood, Falcon, Britton Brothers, and Kluane. I've drilled in NWT, the Yukon, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Labrador, even Africa." When asked to describe his companies, Hardy is brief. "Anderson Creek Gold owns a gold mine and Snowy Creek is a placer operations company. Ridge Resources is getting into heavy civil construction and also rents out equipment. It used to do line cutting and various mining support work but that has shifted to our new company, UTM. I haven't quite decided what Horizon Resources is going to specialize in," he says with a laugh.

Hardy and his wife, Tara Holmes, share a home in Telkwa with two rescue dogs. Holmes is co-owner of one company and provides GIS and mapping services, as well as working locally at both Castle and Tyhee Forest Services and taking correspondence courses in business.

"I was born and raised in Smithers, and Tara is from Prince George," Hardy says proudly. "We love it here; I can't imagine living anywhere else."

Recently returned from a trip to Dubai where he was raising capital for future exploration programs in BC and the Yukon, Hardy sees no end in sight to the work potential in our region. "It's what you make of it," he says, heading off to another job site.

"Mining Matters" is a bi-monthly column written by Anastasia Ledwon, P.Geo., and welcomes your feedback and questions at general@smithers.ca.

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