

Mining Matters

AN INTERVIEW WITH JENNY LESTER, SMITHERS-BASED MUSICIAN AND CAMP COOK EXTRAORDINAIRE

Q: What has working in the mining service industry allowed you to do in other parts of your life?

A: Seasonal work in the exploration industry is great way to support a music habit and provides me both time and money to tour on an artistic level in a way that a steady job with a year round commitment can not. It also provides time to listen to music while working and to jam with other camp workers in the evening.

Q: What was the best part of working in camps, for you?

A: Exploration camps provide a unique opportunity for multi-cultural and diverse professional fields to come together to live in a microenvironment where they completely rely upon each other for success and companionship.

It has brought me personally closer to the Tahltan, Dene and Quebécois cultures and has nurtured friendships that will last a lifetime.

Q: Where have your camps been?

A: BC and Saskatchewan.

Q: What impressed you most about the industry?

A: The mix of old and modern technology to create mini villages in isolated areas. This includes being able to witness how buildings are made or adapted for extreme weather, logistics, road building, environmental studies, and how human needs are met.

On a global spectrum it is impressive to think that the millions of meters of core extracted from under the Earth's surface around the globe are logged by geologists and become public information. This is helping to create a map of how the Earth is made. Those who invest in this research reap the reward of getting to harvest a mineral crop. Through this research there is also a huge environmental awareness rising up and demanding further progress in the development of safer extraction processes and the preservation of sacred or fragile ecosystems.

Q: What was your biggest learning curve/adaptation for camp life?

A: Getting up every single day before 5:00am.



Jenny Lester

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

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