

thing new. So he enrolled in a NWT Mine Training Society program and was hired at Snap Lake soon after that.

Today, he especially enjoys his fly-in rotations, which give him time off to spend with his two-year-old daughter. “To watch her grow for two weeks at home is a very good thing to see,” Joe says. He’s also looking forward to the opportunities he finds at work. With a couple of years experience under his belt working underground, Joe says he’s eager to explore new jobs and responsibilities at Snap Lake “and find out what mining is really all about.”



Tim Harris

Gahcho Kué Diamond Project

When Tim and Alana Harris moved far from home and family on Prince Edward Island in 2012, the newlyweds had more than job prospects on their minds. “A lot of young people are moving north and looking for adventure. We wanted to take a chance and do something we’d remember,” says Tim, 31, who was lured here by De Beers to be the manager of business development on the Gahcho Kué Project.

Alana readily found work as a nurse. Tim, meanwhile, has been busy with his new assignment: helping Gahcho Kué (a joint venture between De Beers Group of Companies and Mountain Province Diamonds) meet a minimum expenditure of 30 percent Northern sourcing for construction procurement, and 60 percent for operations for Gahcho Kué. “It means working with the business community to show them the opportunities that exist, and let them know what it takes to do business with us,” says Tim, who holds an MBA from St. Mary’s University in Halifax.

Tim has the advantage of successful business alliances already proven from De Beers’ Snap Lake mine, but notes that the Gahcho Kué Project will be looking for keen competition among its suppliers and contractors. “It encourages innovation and helps companies create new value for their customers,” he says. (Suppliers and contractors interested in meeting Tim and other members of the materials management team can find them at De Beers’ annual Business Breakfast during the Geoscience Forum.)

Meantime, Tim and Alana are exploring the North outside of work. They have met many like-minded people around Yellowknife. And Tim, an avid golfer, is adjusting to the sandy links at the Yellowknife Golf Club. That said, he’s a big fan of rolling grass fairways at the Hay River course.



Chris Daniels

NICO Base Metal Project

Growing up in Whati, Chris Daniels was fascinated by the large trucks that delivered supplies to the community, wondering what it would be like to operate them. He got his chance when he was a little older and entered the field.

His career eventually led him to Fortune Minerals’ NICO gold-cobalt-bismuth-copper project last summer, where Chris served as site manager — a job that kept him in close contact with the machines that awed him as a kid, and one that he takes pride in. “With the amount of stuff we did at Fortune, I’d say we have the cleanest site in the North,” he says. But the route Chris followed to the project makes for a remarkable story.

Following his childhood interest in trucks, Chris started his working life with Nishi Khon Freeway Inc., as an equipment operator. After about seven years, he decided to make a career change, eventually joining the RCMP as a constable. But heavy equipment kept calling and he returned to the profession, working several years as a haul-truck driver for Kete Whii at the Ekati diamond mine.

It was good work, but when his life partner passed away, Chris decided to stay closer to

home to look after their young children. Eventually, he found his way into local politics, serving as mayor of Behchoko until in the early 2000s. Once more, he returned to heavy equipment.

This past summer, Fortune Minerals contacted Chris and asked if he was available for work at the NICO site. He was, and after completing a Level 2 supervisor’s ticket, was promoted to site manager. It was a seasonal job, but with NICO now advancing through the permitting process and construction poised to begin, Chris will likely be spending more and more time at the site. Which suits him just fine.

“We have a lot of fresh air to breathe. The hills, the scenery, the wildlife, the nature. It’s all there,” he says of the NICO camp. “I love working out there, and this is one of the places that brought me back to mining. What more could I say?”



Knud Rasmussen

Prospector

When it came to rock back in the 1960s and 1970s, Knud Rasmussen was the kind of guy Yellowknife needed. That’s because he was very, very good at blowing it up. There aren’t