

# Mining Matters

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Work from the mining and exploration sector “drives a lot of our economy,” says Mark Edwards, Sales Manager at BC Web in Smithers. “We have a family from Houston who buys all of their stuff here, like iPods and such, and three of them work at Huckleberry [Mine],” says Edwards.

“I’d rank the industry in at least the top five, maybe even the top three of our business groups,” adds Matt Kalina, BC Web’s Service Manager.

From backups to web hosting, equipment to training, people in the industry turn to our local computer stores to fulfill their needs.

A typical one-drill program, including a camp, will purchase between 600-800 litres of fuel (diesel) per day, usually hauled into camp by the closest-to-site company. Rewards programs are incentives to spend in town, not to mention rebates that are, in turn, spent in the local community by the company and its employees.

And the money is also spent in not-so-direct ways. Lorie and Patrick Farrell of Smithers relocated here from Saskatchewan and Vancouver, built their dream home and started hobby farming. Lorie works as a local project manager and geologist for a Vancouver-based company. Patrick used to work in the industry but when the downturn happened in 2009, he opted for more stable work in Smithers. Exploration work paid for their land, animals, and feed, among other interesting things. “We kept a lot of local contractors employed during the economic downturn,” says Lorie with a laugh.

*“Mining Matters” is a bi-monthly column written by Anastasia Ledwon, P.Geo., and welcomes your feedback and questions at [general@smithers.ca](mailto:general@smithers.ca).*

Brought to you by

Town of  
**Smithers**  
...simply exceptional.

