

Life at Shockedizzle Electrizzle

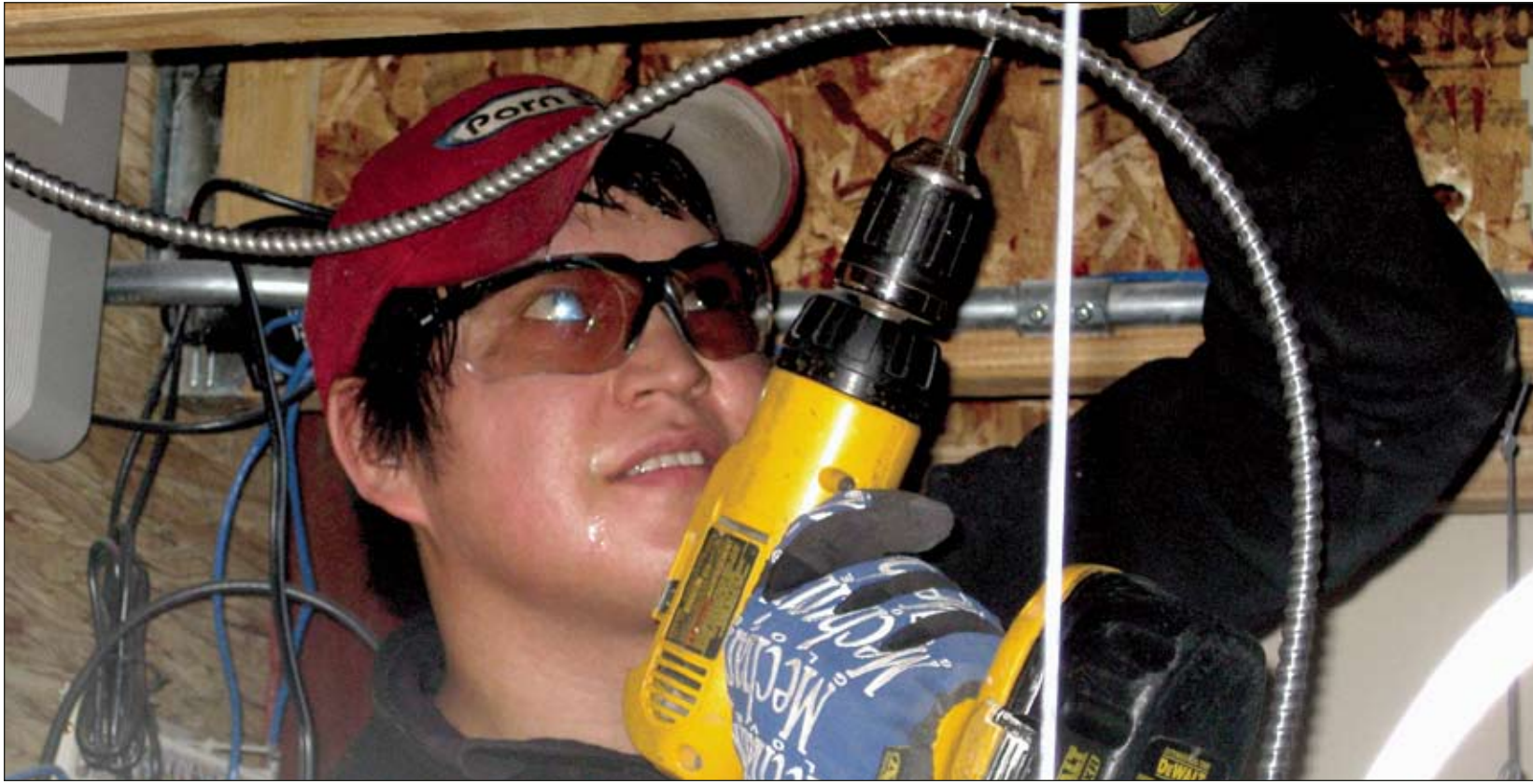


photo courtesy of Delmer Bonnetrouge

Delmer Bonnetrouge of Fort Providence has started his own electrical contracting company – a job that has already secured him work in several Nunavut communities.

Out in the field with a journeyman electrician

by Guy Quenneville

Northern News Services

Deh Gah Got'ie Koe/Fort Providence

Travelling around the North as a journeyman electrician has its ups and downs – there's that whole travel part, for one thing.

Delmer Bonnetrouge, a 30-year-old Red Seal journeyman electrician, was working in Taloyoak last month for SSI Micro. He was doing electrical work for the satellite Internet company, which has a \$5 million contract to improve the communications system which Government of Nunavut employees use to transfer data over the web.

"Since I've been here, First Air lost my luggage and I've been wearing the same (clothes)," said Bonnetrouge.

"There were supposed to get it today, but there was a blizzard today. I don't even have my winter gear, but I've

got my tools and I've got the clothes that I'm wearing."

Doing without his shaving kit, change of clothes and Stephen King short story collection *Four Past Midnight*, Bonnetrouge carried on with the job.

"You have to make it work once you're out here," he said, going on to explain just what a newly-licensed Fort Providence electrician was doing in Taloyoak not four months after the launch of his business, Shockedizzle Electrizzle.

"I'm doing electrical work on the communication towers, installing circuits, replacing fans with bigger fans, and installing relays to control those fans," he said.

It's the first time work has taken Bonnetrouge out of his hometown and main operating area, Fort Providence. Despite the hassles of travelling, Bonnetrouge is happy

to be venturing out of his comfort zone.

He also works at the Diavik Diamond Mine, and decided to start his business to cater to Fort Providence, where – like many other NWT communities – there is a shortage of skilled labour. He also craved new experiences and the opportunity to travel.

"I'm getting older. I've been at Diavik for six-and-a-half years. I was just ready for something brand-new. I believe I was getting complacent at Diavik. My heart wasn't really in it. My head wasn't in it. I needed a new challenge.

"There are no electricians in Fort Providence right now," he said.

The timing worked out

perfectly for Bonnetrouge.

"Starting a business was a perfect opportunity because there was a need for electricians. There's a need for electricians all over the North, actually."

While Bonnetrouge said he had plans to quit his job at Diavik in April, his experience at the diamond mine really helped develop his eye for safety.

"One of the most important things that I still carry with me is safety. I always try to make sure I have my safety glasses on, my steel-toe boots and my gloves," he said.

"Every day, you've got to be safe so you can keep on working."

Joining Bonnetrouge in April was Shaun Morris, a

friend and fellow Red Seal journeyman electrician.

While Bonnetrouge will make himself available for jobs outside the NWT, Morris, who has lived most of his life in Yellowknife, will remain in Fort Providence to take care of business back home.

"He's looking to go and branch out," said Morris of Bonnetrouge. "But we just can't bail out on Fort Providence, so I'm going to stay here. It's going to be a big transition from Yellowknife."

Since Bonnetrouge got started last December, he has worked a variety of jobs in Fort Providence at various sites including the Snowshoe Inn, Deh Gah School and the Deh Cho Bridge.

"I'm usually always doing something on my time off from Diavik anyway, so I might as well be getting paid for it."

"Every day, you've got to be safe."

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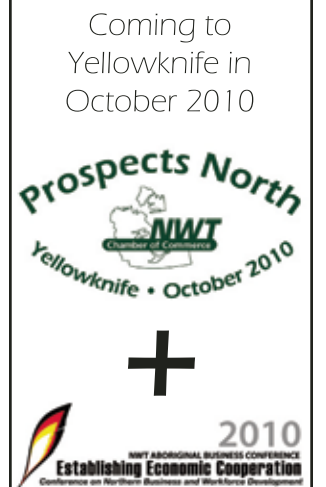
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