

# Newly Elected Council Members



### Jocelyn White, RPBio

**I AM A** long time resident of Prince George, attending school, building a career and now raising a family here. My husband and I are building our own ark with 2 kids, 2 dogs and 2 cats. I have spent nine years working as a consulting Fish and Wildlife Biologist, in addition to a six-year period with the City of Prince George. I am currently employed with McElhanney Consulting Services, working with a variety of aquatic and terrestrial creatures.

A number of years ago while employed at the municipality, a major land developer appeared before city council and stated that biologists were for hire, and they would say what you want for the right price. We may approach issues from different angles, and have known to disagree, but saying that we would say what the client wanted for a price did not sit well with me.

This event led me to start organizing the local PG Bio Gathering where local biologists could network, share projects and show that we may disagree from time to time, but could still sit together and share a beverage. The next step was to consider running for Council. When asked this winter, I decided that I had stepped back from enough other volunteer commitments that I could put my name in the running. Unfortunately I still hear from clients and other professionals that

Registered Professional Biologists are for hire for the right price, an idea that we need to work hard to overcome.

Since being elected, I have attended one Council meeting and signed up for the Finance and Communications committees. I have been a member of the Credentials Committee for the past two years. What struck me early on is how dedicated each member is, including staff. They have ambitious plans to increase awareness of the College and continually improve information sharing with members. They are energetic and the best part is they enjoy what they do and have a lot of fun doing it. I strongly encourage you to consider signing up for a committee. It is where a lot of the work happens and additional input and enthusiasm is always welcome. 



### Alexandra de Jong Westman, RPBio

**THANKS TO ALL** of you who supported my election onto the College Council this spring! I am very excited to become more involved with our regulatory body, but mostly, to assist in the sharing of information about the College, what our designations mean to those who aren't in our biological realms, and what it means to engage with Registered Professional Biologists.

As many of you already saw in the last *College Matters*, I have a fairly diverse background in

biology, having worked with provincial and federal governments, engaged in consulting, and dabbled in academics.... not to mention growing up with a marine biologist for a mother! I got started on the beaches and whale research boats at a very early age, with my first word being "anemone"... I kid you not! Since then I've moved inland and up in elevation and latitude, eventually migrating to Canada's true north – the Yukon. Really though, Whitehorse is pretty far south and almost hardly counts...

Most important, however, is why I wanted to get involved with the College. I have been a member and Registered Professional Biologist since 2008, and early on, viewed the College as this nebulous entity to whom I sent my annual dues, but did not fully appreciate what the College could do for me. When Brian Churchill phoned me up and asked if I would like to get more involved and run for a Councillor position, I thought, why not... I'm already on three other boards... what is one more!

All kidding aside, the College is an essential piece to the credibility of the applied biology field, and I am very much looking forward to sharing ideas and being a part of the future direction and initiatives that the College is undertaking. In attending a couple of meetings already, I see further, the importance in getting the message of the College and what it means to be recognized as a "professional" to students in post-secondary institutions early on in their education and am looking forward to assisting in this initiative not only in BC, but extending this message into the Yukon as well. Further to that, the *Code of Ethics* that we as members of the College are governed by, is something that many members and our clients may not fully understand or appreciate, and is a message worthy of getting out there.

That is it for now. Thank you again for your support, and I am very excited to be jumping in to the College pool. 