

Publications 2000 +

SLUMACH'S GOLD IN 2ND PRINTING

BY JANIS WARREN

Coquitlam's Mary Trainer with co-authors Rick Antonson and Brian Antonson. Their renewed book published last October, called *Slumach's Gold: In Search of a Legend*, is now in its second printing.

The lure of passing on a part of B.C. history—and the story-telling behind a gold mine— was the reason for their re-write.

Thirty-five years ago, Mary Trainer, and brothers Rick and Brian Antonson researched the legend of Slumach and his Pitt Lake treasure trove for a book. Through their company, Nunaga, they published the work, hand-stapled it in someone's basement and sent it out for distribution. And over the next few years, "it did pretty well," said Trainer, a Coquitlam writer.

Recently, the trio reunited to add to the book after hearing story after story of new seekers trying to uncover the mystery. Their tweaked history/adventure book, called *Slumach's Gold: In Search of a Legend*, was published last October by Heritage House and is now in its second printing.

Trainer said the story "is very much a part of B.C. history... and I think there's an appetite for B.C. and Canadiana legend."

As the tale goes, Slumach was a Salish First Nations man in New Westminster in the late 1800s when he found a creek bed full of gold, some nuggets the size of walnuts, north of Pitt Lake.

He spent his loot at the town's saloons; however, he met an unfortunate fate. Rumours flew that he'd take women with him to the mine and they wouldn't return. He was never convicted of killing them but, in 1891, Slumach was hung for the shooting death of Louis Bee.

Trainer, a former parenting columnist with The Tri-City News in the early 1980s, said the re-published book includes new stories. "It's amazing how many people have heard about the legend," she said, noting, "A lot of people have died looking for the gold." (Past newspaper articles claim up to 30 people have lost their lives unsuccessfully hunting for it.). Trainer said the story is intriguing because nobody knows for sure if the mine exists. Still, thrill-seekers often head up to the Pitt River Lodge, a fishing resort, to search for clues. Trainer said she and her co-authors — Rick Antonson and Brian Antonson — are pleased with the book's results.

Slumach's Gold in 2nd printing

The Tri-City News 30 January 2008

Publications 2000s +

“You can picture some people reading it on a dark, winter’s night and saying, ‘In the spring, I’m going to take my kids out there or I’m going to rent a helicopter to find it,’” she said.

The authors will talk about *Slumach’s Gold: In Search of a Legend* at the Coquitlam Public Library (City Centre branch) on March 5 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.