



### NOVEL EXPLORES STORIES OF CURSED GOLD MINE

MISSION'S BRIAN  
ANTONSON,  
BROTHER RICK,  
AND FRIEND MARY  
TRAINER HAVE  
RELEASED AN-  
OTHER BOOK ABOUT  
SLUMACH'S GOLD  
BY CAROL AUN  
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### Novel explores stories of cursed gold mine

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The authors of Slumach's Gold will be at Murdoch's Book Shoppe Saturday.

A reportedly hidden gold mine on Pitt Lake has been cursed and whoever finds the mine will die, according to a story which has been told for more than a century.

The man who put the curse on the mine is a Salish man named Slumach, who was executed after he was tried for murder in 1891.

And this story has fascinated one Mission man for half a century.

When they were just boys in 1957, Brian Antonson and his brother Rick heard from a fisherman's wife at Hatzic Lake that Slumach uttered the curse just before he had the noose put around his neck, and just before his head was covered with a hood.

Intrigued by the story, the Antonson brothers and their friend, Mary Trainer, researched the legend and wrote a 56-page book about the mystery in 1972, and included newspaper clippings, stories, and other records.

Since then, the trio has not stopped receiving information. Now, on the 35th anniversary of the first book, the Antonsons and Trainer have written a second book, Slumach's Gold: In Search of a Legend, containing more stories and information.

One of the most interesting stories in the book is about a man named Stuart Brown, said Antonson.

In 1974, Brown found a stream, and as he walked up the

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steam, he was up to his ankles in nuggets. He then went to the governor and suggested paying off the provincial debt. But the governor turned down the idea, said Antonson, because the find was in a protected provincial park.

While Antonson doubts a lot of the stories he's heard, he believes this one may be true.

"Of all the stories, his is the most compelling."

But as the legend says, anyone who finds the mine will die; Brown died of Parkinson's disease.

After decades of chasing the legend and trying to trace facts from as far back in time as possible, Antonson says he doesn't believe Slumach had any gold, and he doesn't believe in Slumach's curse.

"There's nothing to indicate that he had any [gold], but there's lots of evidence that people found gold there," said Antonson.

He believes there's gold in the northeast corner of Pitt Lake, but he has never attempted to go after the treasure himself.

"The land is very dangerous — that's the reason people die up there," said Antonson, who has seen many pictures of the terrain, which he describes as "wild country."

The weather is also unpredictable and it can change quickly, he continued.

"I'm not tempted to go there," said Antonson, who gets his fix from the excitement by writing about it.

Antonson is the associate dean of broadcast and communications at BCIT, and has lived in Mission for 33 years. Rick, who lives in Vancouver, is the president and CEO of Tourism Vancouver. Mary Trainer is a writer and communications consultant. She lives in Coquitlam.

Antonson, his brother Rick, and Mary Trainer will be at Murdoch's Book Shoppe this Saturday to sign copies of the book.

Those interested in the legend, or have something to add to the story are also welcome to stop by for a visit. The trio are getting set to work on another book on the same topic, scheduled to come out in 2012, the 40th anniversary of the first book.

Murdoch's Book Shoppe is located at 33078 First Ave. The authors will be on site beginning at 10 a.m.