

THERE IS GOLD ALONG THE FRASER AND THOMPSON RIVERS



Dwight Dick



Jessica Dick



Denise & Derrick Durk



Lawrence Campbell



Tara Campbell



Darrel Porter



Tasia Pittman

Gold Nuggets found along the Fraser and Thompson Rivers

by Kirby James

Lytton was known as a gold-mining town in years past, but you don't see too many prospectors panning for gold these days.

Don't let that fool you, though. The Story of the Gold Rush within the Fraser and Thompson rivers still continues!

If you're wondering where all the gold went, all you need to do is look at the Ashcroft, Boston Bar, and Boothroyd Reserves to see it's still there. In fact, those are only a few places where there are Gold Nuggets to be found in great abundance around the province.

"Worth more than their weight in gold" is a good way to describe young native athletes who are willing to make a commitment to become successful well-rounded individuals through various sports.

Many young athletes have proven themselves throughout neighbouring communities to be true Gold Nuggets. For example, Brent Draney, Spences Bridge Band, who plays for the Kamloops Blazers Hockey Team; and Ryan Minnabarriet, Bonaparte Band, who plays for the Merritt Centennial Hockey Team.

These are just two examples of athletes who have come from communities along the Fraser and Thompson rivers. There are many others, and here are some of them:

Name: *Tasia Pittman* Age: *10*
Band: *Ashcroft Band* Sport: *Karate*

Tasia, known as "Tais" is a Nugget found along the Thompson river. She started her karate career at five years of age and has won numerous trophies and medals. She plans to continue her quest to become the best at what she does. Remember her name-Gold Nuggets always increase in value, and this Nugget is on her way!

Name: *Tara Campbell* Age: *14*
Band: *Boston Bar Band* Sport: *Female Wrestler*

Who says Wrestling is only for boys? This Nugget begs to differ! Girls make excellent wrestlers-just ask Tara and she will show you. She's won medals through competition just to prove that girls are capable of excelling. This Nugget is found along the Westside banks of the Fraser River.

Name: *Denise and Derrick Durk* Age: *17 & 13*
Band: *Boston Bar Band* Sport: *Baseball*

It seems as though these two Nuggets are a chip off a much bigger Nugget! It seems the mother of these two is herself a bona fide athlete, and has won numerous trophies. Both Denise and Derrick have made their collections known and are going to be a big challenge to their mother. This sister-and-brother Nugget act are found on the East side of the Fraser River.

Name: *Darrell Porter* Age: *17*
Band: *Ashcroft Band*

Sport: *Multi-Sport (Ice Hockey, Baseball, Basketball)*

This Nugget was found along the Fraser River. Darrell is the type of athlete who loves all kinds of sports. He too has many trophies from different sports. He sometimes has a difficult time deciding which sport he likes best! Overall, you could say that sports is his passion.

Name: *Jessica & Dwight Dick* Age: *17 and 16*
Band: *Ashcroft Band* Sport: *Baseball*

Another brother and sister combo... these two Nuggets can be found on the banks of the Fraser River. They both enjoy many sports, although basketball is their specialty. They get a lot of basketball practice and experience through their day and basketball camps. They're well on their way to becoming valuable Nuggets for a promising future.

Name: *Lawrence Campbell* Age: *17*
Band: *Boothroyd Band* Sport: *Baseball*

This Nugget was found just past Boston Bar at a small Reserve called Boothroyd. He likes to play many sports, particularly baseball. Lawrence has had numerous medals and trophies, which gives witness to the various sports he is involved with. He has a great character and this could lead to his becoming a successful Athlete Role Model.

Just remember, our athletes from Ashcroft, Boston Bar, and Boothroyd are not only our community's future, they could also be future athletic role models for children and youth everywhere.