

## **The Rush Is On... Kind of.**

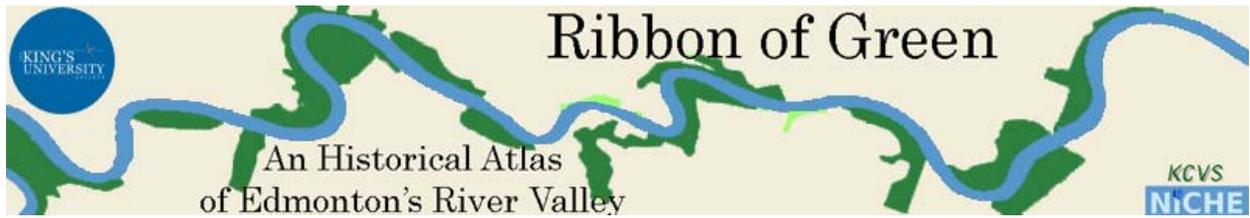
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In the 1850s, there was a gold rush in the Fraser River of the Rocky Mountains. Prospectors looking to make a buck flocked to the cold, glacial waters of the Fraser, but when they arrived, they were informed of another river *filled* with gold ripe for the picking, or panning as it so happened. Thanks to a group of treasure seekers, miners began to flock to Edmonton in search of the fortune awaiting them in gold, “A party of gold-seekers from Minnesota, wintering at Fort Pitt, showed samples of Saskatchewan River gold to Dr. James Hector, a geologist with the Palliser Expedition, in the spring of 1857.”<sup>1</sup> Although group after group of miners came to try their luck on the North Saskatchewan, the amount of gold never amounted to the type of fortune found in the Klondike. It is suggested that miners kept coming to Edmonton on account of one man’s encouragement, Timolean Love. Unfortunately for the miners, gold in the North Saskatchewan lays entwined with black sand which is extremely difficult to separate from the gold particles as Schrumm describes: “for one thing, science and engineering failed to discover a cheap process for separating the gold from the black sand.”<sup>2</sup> The money one made from gold in Edmonton was never enough to warrant fame or fortune, but it was enough to fund other enterprises. Many men used the income they generated through gold mining to establish farms or other home businesses. The gold rush in Edmonton was never destined to be as extensive as the

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<sup>1</sup> “Valley of Gold” in Alberta History, Autumn 1974, Volume 22, Number 4; J.R. Schrumm, 14.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 25.



Klondike rush, but it did provide start up money for many Edmonton business men and drove people's interest in the city.