

HUGE NUGGET 877 FIND REPORTED

It looks like a big baked potato, it's said to weigh 74.6 oz and it could be worth at least \$60,000. *N.M.*

"It" is a gold nugget, discovered July 9 at Squaw Creek, B.C.

Thomas Eckervogt, 23, was working by himself at the small Squaw Creek Holdings claim and dug up the monster nugget. It wasn't until the end of the day, however, when foreman Alan Dendys joined him back at the property, that the 2,320-g lump of gold was discovered in the sluice box. *114P/14*

There was no screaming and shouting when the nugget was found, but "after a little while we phoned up the helicopter and came out to the Junction that night," he said. Both Eckervogts live in Haines Junction, Y.T., about 100 km north of the placer mine.

"We figured if we didn't celebrate that nugget, we'd never celebrate anything."

The nugget is the largest in a series of good finds over the years at the small property, about 1½ km inside the B.C. border and about 23 km from Dalton Post. Squaw Creek is a tributary of the Tatshenini River.

If sold to a refinery as just gold, the Squaw Creek nugget would bring between \$35,000 to \$40,000, but nuggets often bring more than prevailing gold prices. —Nancy Campbell