

Connections

Today's topic I will call "Connections", connecting four completely different things to each other. They are a gold rush, the Province of BC, a US President and a quarterback. In 1885 a German born in Karlstadt, Germany, immigrated to the United States. In 1891, the Immigrant moved to Seattle, Washington where he eventually met two gold prospectors headed for the Yukon Gold Rush. They needed money to make the trip which the Immigrant gave to them as part of a deal. The prospectors took a steamship to Skagway, Alaska, then took the [Chilkoot Trail](#) through British Columbia to the gold fields of [Dawson City, Yukon](#). The prospectors staked claims and sold them for profit, which they shared with the Immigrant. The Immigrant now had enough money to move to Bennett, BC (on the Chilkoot Trail). He established a hotel in Bennett, at first just a tent but later a 2 story building with a restaurant, booze, gambling and comfort ladies, all the accoutrements to mine the miners. He called the hotel the Arctic Hotel. The Immigrant's name was Frederick Trump and was the grandfather of the 45th President of the United States. Bennett, BC is the genesis of the Trump Fortune. Let's scroll forward to the year 1984, when grandson, Donald J Trump bought the New Jersey Generals, a team in the upstart United States Football League (USFL). In 1985, the Generals (Trump) signed a quarterback who was considered too small to play in the NFL. The diminutive quarterback did quite well until he broke his collarbone during the 15th game of the season. The next year, the Generals were merged with another USFL team, the Houston Gamblers. The Gamblers already had a strapping NFL type quarterback, Jim Kelly so the little quarterback moved on to other football teams. In 1990, he signed a contract with the BC Lions of the CFL where he had a chance to play with his wide receiver brother, Darren. The little quarterback did not do well his first year with Lions but in the subsequent seven years, he did very well indeed. Playing with the Lions, Calgary Stampeders and the Toronto Argonauts, he led his teams to 3 Grey Cups. He was named the League's Most Valuable Player 6 times. In 2006, he was named the greatest CFL player of all time. The little quarterback's name is Doug Flutie. In 2007, Flutie became the first non Canadian inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame.