

routes

a rural hip lifestyle magazine

LISA SZABON

Nanton's Olympic hopeful
pushes for Gold



food feature

Route 40 Soup Company

THE HALIFAX PROJECT

PRESERVING CANADA'S MILITARY HISTORY

Jazz, Blues and Country
on the **BEAT ROUTE**

A complimentary magazine featuring the foothills region including:
Black Diamond, High River, Longview, Nanton, Okotoks, Turner Valley.

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contributors *winter 2009*



Peter Worden is the founding editor and proud slinger of the Experiment, a small newspaper in the small town of Nanton. He was editor of his university newspaper (2004), reported for two years in Lloydminster, and most recently interned with Alberta Views magazine in Calgary. With speculation of the newspaper world's imminent demise, Worden at times despairs his vocation as a newspaper reporter is as timely as a career in the fur trade.

This is **Michelle Greysen's** third feature story for Routes. She enjoys working and living in southern Alberta where she owns a unique antiques store in Nanton, Inktiques. Michelle is writing a book on the Halifax 57 Rescue project and the man behind the story, Karl Kjarsgaard. Watch her publishing company website for updates and release information - and while there view her recent released poetry book, First New Forbidden True, available at the store.



Pat Fream is a freelance writer who has been writing for various Alberta businesses and publications for more than 18 years. In addition to her penchant for words, Pat is passionate about fitness, travel and all things related to her husband and three kids. Although work and activities often take her to the city, Pat enjoys acreage living in the DeWinton area, where soaring hawks, rolling hills and the distant Rockies are a constant source of awe and inspiration.

Sheila Sepkowski is a freelance writer and photographer. She has written for weekly and daily newspapers across Alberta. Sheila enjoys being behind the camera creating portraits and landscape images. She has lived in High River with her husband, two children and two dogs for the past 10 years.



Melanie Collison is a freelance journalist who paid her dues for 19 years in daily newspapers. She writes about everything from the High River Highland Games to environmental progress in the oil patch. In addition to magazine and newspaper work, she's a speech writer, editor and photographer. To recharge her spirit, she plays bass clarinet, writes a little music, and larks about in the sunshine with her four rescue dogs under the guise of a meeting with her colleagues.



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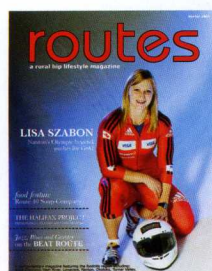
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On the Cover: Lisa Szabon photographed at Canada Olympic Park at the base of a bobsled run.
By Neville Palmer



RAISING HALIFAX LW170

Canadian military history enthusiast reaches to great depth to preserve our country's heritage and works to bring it home to rest in Nanton.

By Michelle Greysen
Photos by Neville Palmer



History Feature
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Resting on the Atlantic Ocean floor, more than 1,700 metres deep, is the renowned Handley Page Halifax LW170. In her day, the valiant Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) aircraft executed some 28 bombing missions, including prep missions for the D-Day invasions of Normandy in 1944. When the aircraft sprung a fuel leak while on war patrol 200 kilometres northwest of Ireland in 1945, her crew was safely rescued, but the ill-fated aircraft was lost to the great sea.

Nearly seven decades later, thanks to modern day treasure hunter and aviator, Karl Kjarsgaard, the great bomber will see daylight again, as she is rescued and honoured with a new resting place in Nanton, Alberta.

Karl Kjarsgaard has a passion for preserving and honouring Canadian military history. His detailed plan to recover the Halifax LW170 bomber has been on the radar of many supporters since his first successful raising of a British Halifax bomber in 1995. From 240 metres below the surface of Lake Mjosa in Norway, the Halifax NA33 now sits restored in the National Air Force Museum in Trenton, Ontario.

Following that successful raising, Kjarsgaard, as project manager in 1997, recovered a RCAF Halifax from a bog in Belgium with the purpose of providing a formal burial for the three airmen trapped in the unsalvageable wreckage.

A steadfast dedication to Canadian military history and this country's combat heroes now has Kjarsgaard well under-

“This will be the only real McCoy for Canada, a true combat plane, with Canadian history, Canadian crew and Canadian pride.”

way to his most significant recovery to date - that of the Halifax LW170. Flying over 70 per cent of its WWII missions in this aircraft, the submerged LW170 is the only restorable combat Canadian Halifax in existence.

“This will be the only real McCoy for Canada, a true combat plane, with Canadian history, Canadian crew and

Below: Part of Kjarsgaard's endless fundraising efforts included the sale of limited-edition signed prints, donated by Canadian artist Michael McCabe titled "Invincible Item," of the Handley Page Halifax B. Mk. III, LW170 of RCAF 424 Squadron. After countless research hours the signatures on the prints are those of the 11 crew members who flew the LW170 into combat over 60 years ago. Kjarsgaard personally criss-crossed the country to visit each of the aged men for their signatures and to record their stories.

Canadian pride," said Kjarsgaard, founding director of Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) dedicated to preserving the Halifax and its international heritage.

In Kjarsgaard's view, bringing this significant artifact home to Canadian soil is paramount to all Canadians. "We must know where we came from to know where we are going," Kjarsgaard also laments that history should be preserved and lessons learned - the losses of war need not be repeated.

Kjarsgaard never loses sight of honouring those who paid the greatest sacrifice with their lives with his dedication to raising the LW170. His mission is to create a monument to the Canadian soldier - past and future.

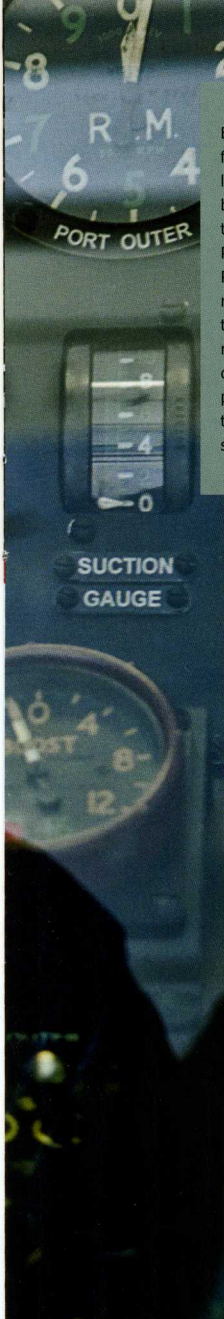
"In all of the adversity and complications of our quest for the Halifax Project I have always tried to emulate and follow in the footsteps of my heroes of the RCAF and Bomber Command. Such great examples of courage, honour, excellence, and sacrifice in this giant Canadian sword of Freedom, the Halifax," said Kjarsgaard. "If these young men could weather such hardships as this, for all of us, we must continue on no matter the cost or effort."

The future home for the celebrated Halifax LW170 is in the world-class Nanton Lancaster Society Air Museum, also home to the rare Lancaster Mk.10 FM159. The museum houses almost 3,600 sq. m (40,000 sq. ft) of hanger and display space of aviation history and the site of Canada's Bomber Command Memorial Wall, honouring the more than 10,000 Canadians who gave their lives serving with Bomber Command 1939 - 1945.

"Karl has enriched our museum by being a first class supporter and proponent of our goals and activities," said Dan Fox, past president of the museum. "He is constantly spreading the word to any and all he comes in contact with, including members of parliament, senators, military personnel, etc. Since he became a director of the Nanton Air Museum last April, he has aided us in our efforts by offering his opinions and advice based on his considerable experience in the aviation field."

The museum is a loyal supporter of the Halifax 57 Project with funds designated in support of Kjarsgaard and a future display of both the Lancaster and the Halifax bomber; a world-class unique opportunity for the facility.

Fox refers to Kjarsgaard as a "mover and a shaker", noting that when he goes after something, things happen. "Karl is a great patriotic Canadian and is not ashamed to show it. He has done more to promote the memory of wartime veterans than anyone I know." ■



To follow this historic mission visit the ongoing progress reports at the Halifax Project website: www.57rescuecanada.com. Coming soon: the book about this incredible mission, also written by Michelle Greysen.

Left: The Lancaster Museum is the site of Canada's Bomber Command Memorial Wall, honouring the more than 10,000 Canadians who gave their lives serving with Bomber Command 1939 - 1945. Kjarsgaard was so impressed by this act of remembrance that he moved from Ottawa to work alongside the people responsible for constructing it.