

Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada)



RCAF HALIFAX LW170 RECOVERY
(424 Squadron)



LW170 Recovery
Phase I

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Progress Report No.21

November 6, 2007

Registered Charity 84586 5740 RR0001

Greetings to all our members and supporters. We approach a most special day, Remembrance Day on November 11th, when we honour our men and women who have sacrificed for all us so that we might be free.

Our special Halifax Project, to locate and recover the most historic combat aircraft RCAF Halifax LW170, is our ultimate tribute to the efforts and sacrifice of these wonderful people who gave their all for Canada and the world, for Freedom and Peace.

As proceed on this most honourable quest to find LW170 we hope to educate all generations of Canadians and our Allies to the excellence and great effort of our Canadian forces in the fight for Freedom.

As Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) is partners with the finest Bomber Command Memorial and museum in all Canada, the Nanton Lancaster Society Air Museum, it is especially a hard time for all in Nanton as one of our own sons, Corporal Nathan Hornberg of the King's Own Calgary Regiment, was killed-in-action in Afghanistan. He died fighting for what he and all Canadians believe in, so we honour his sacrifice with our thoughts and prayers going out to all his family at their great loss.

It will truly be a day of Remembrance in Nanton this November 11th.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

ON TO BUSINESS – THESE ARE THE HALI-FACTS

First let me say, as Project Manager, that I apologize to all our members, supporters, and fans for a bit of a delay in getting out Progress Report 21. Between my own job, family matters, planning for the Halifax Project, and a myriad of other pressing items there has been hardly any lulls to sit down and get this report out to you. We are making good progress and I will give you a run down at this time.

Last report I invited all our readers to come out to the annual Memorial day function at the Nanton Lancaster Society Air Museum on August 25. The world is really noticing Nanton with their great Bomber Command Memorial Wall and all the hands-on activities to educate all of us of the great efforts of Bomber Command and our own RCAF in Allied Victory.

Nanton now has the world's largest RCAF flag (40 feet by 20 feet -- 13 meters by 7 meters) which was first raised and flown on August 24 and flew all weekend as a tribute to our aircrews and RCAF. This super flag will be flown in the future at all air force functions so you must come and see this special flag. It flies on a 100 foot flagpole of our friends, Ultimate Trains of Nanton, and you can see this wonderful flag flying from 5 kilometers away as you approach Nanton..

The special group within the RCAF that was paid tribute this year was the RCAF Americans who joined the RCAF in WW2, over 8000 strong. There were over 370 names of Americans on Nanton's Wall who were killed-in-action in Bomber Command and it was a very special ceremony with many U.S. Officials and family members attending this dedication of the sacrifice of Americans in the RCAF. We must never forget our best friends and neighbours !

The Lancaster Merlin engine runs were great along with all the other functions and activities, especially the addition of the wartime re-enactors attending in full RCAF uniforms and combat gear which added great interest and colour to this year's event. The Re-enactors are planning even more participation next year and hope to come down for 3 days of fun at the museum and to help "Liberate" Nanton in August of 2008.

Well done to all concerned! (to see photos of the event and raising of the special RCAF flag just go to the Nanton Lancaster Society Air Museum website for all the latest).

Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) directors Jim Blondeau and myself, along with director Chris Charland making his first trip to see the Nanton celebration, were able to attend and participate in all the functions. Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) was pleased to have assisted Nanton in all the preparations and support of this great event.

An interesting development which have come out of the ceremonies in August at Nanton, with Jim Blondeau singing his tribute songs of "The Wall at Nanton" and "American Eagle and the Proud Maple Leaf", is that Jim and yours truly have been invited to give a Remembrance Day presentation to 300+ young people at the Ecole Senator Riley School in High River, Alberta on Nov.9. We are most pleased to be able to contribute to the program for the young people and teachers of this school who truly care about our veterans and their sacrifice for our Freedom. I will report on this later in our next report.

Our most important Halifax sonar survey, to locate and inspect LW170, is very much a reality and soon we will be on our way to find our historic Halifax. I have been constantly corresponding by email and phone with the deep sea experts in Galway, Ireland and their officials about the plans for the sonar survey. After much adjusting and evaluation of the scientific ship cruises scheduled for late 2007 and early 2008 our joint opinion is that we will be able to "piggyback" the Halifax sonar survey work

on to one of these scientific cruises in the early part of 2008.

To this end I will once again be going to Galway, Ireland to meet with the sonar experts to do more detailed planning for the Halifax sonar work. Remember that our Irish sonar experts already have done great "homework" on the Halifax sonar survey box and have found 2 definite targets already by applying their diligent searching talents to historic sonar data which was gathered over 4 years ago during other sonar surveys. Certainly these 2 targets will be a first priority to scan when we go out on the sonar expedition.

This upcoming meeting will be happening on Nov. 15/16 in Galway and I will be sure to give all of you another update before Christmas season starts.

I should mention that just before this important meeting happens in Galway I will be in Hull, England on Nov. 14 to give a presentation to a branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society. This will be a program showing the past recoveries of Halifax NA337 in Norway and LW682 in Belgium with the emphasis on our new Halifax Project to locate and recover RCAF Halifax LW170.

All of this program was set up and organized by our good friend and ally in Leeds, UK Ken Cothliff who runs Air Supply Aviation Store while he does his best for the boys of Bomber Command, one of whom was his father who flew in the RCAF and was killed-in-action on Halifaxes. Hopefully we will raise even more support in the UK for our Halifax Project as we are not as prominent in the UK as we should be, considering that LW170 served in an RAF 518 MET. squadron as well as the RCAF in 424 squadron.

I would like to thank all of our most generous members and supporters for their financial support in the recent past, especially those of you who have provided major funds for the Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) share of the sonar survey costs. We must be ready to hold up our end of the partnership with our Irish deep sea experts and at this time we have the minimum, just enough funds to cover our sonar fund obligations.

I am not comfortable with our finances as they stand as so I must be forthright about my concerns in order to protect our project. As Project Manager I have kept the funds donated for our share of the sonar survey costs separate from general revenues. I will keep our accounts this way to ensure we have sufficient funds to cover our share of the sonar costs, coming due in the near future.

Our general revenues are generated by the new memberships and donations, sales of Halifax signed/unsigned prints and Halifax CD-Roms, and one-time donations by groups and individuals. I feel it is important to tell you now that our sales of prints and memberships with renewals has slowed down considerably over these past 3 months.

To protect our financial position to do the sonar survey (because funding via print sales has slowed down so much) I have had to start paying some of the bills for Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) out of my own finances. In fact, I am covering all the travel costs and expenses out of my own funds for the trip to Galway, Ireland next week. I am willing to accept this in the short term and hope you will understand my mentioning our financial situation now.

In light of this momentary shortfall of our finances (with the pending sonar survey looming in the near future) I would ask all of you who would like to see the Halifax Project succeed to please send in your financial reinforcements between now and the end of the year.

This could be in the form of a special purchase for Christmas of one of our high quality signed or unsigned prints or a Halifax history CD-ROM or even a renewal of your membership or purchase of a membership for someone you know who has RCAF or air force heritage in their family. What about a special Christmas gift for a friend or buying a print for your local Legion or Air Force Association Wing?

There are many good reasons during the upcoming season to help us financially get over the hump during this bit of a financial dry spell. I can assure you that Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) will persevere and succeed but we will need your continued support. Simply by sending in your donations and support for 2008 now (before the end of this year 2007) you will be strengthening us for the all important 2008 when RCAF Halifax LW170 will be found. For those of you who know myself and my directors, and our track record, you know we will "press on regardless...".

I will close for now with my favourite poem, which is a beautiful message and beckoning call from all those "forever young" people we will remember.

DECEMBER 1943

The life that I have
Is all that I have
And the life that I have
Is yours.

The love that I have
Of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and yours.

A sleep I shall have
A rest I shall have
Yet death will be but a pause.

For the peace of my years
In the long green grass
Will be yours and yours and yours.

Sincerely,
Karl Kjarsgaard
Project Manager
Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada)
Registered Charity : 84586 5740 RR 0001

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P.O. Box 606
Nanton, AB
T0L 1R0
Phone 403 - 603 - 8592

Unit 31C – 174 Colonnade Road
Ottawa, ON
K2E 7J5
Phone 613 – 863 – 1942
Or 613 – 226 – 4884

www.57rescuecanada.com
email: 57rescuecanada@rogers.com