



I have just returned from a great RCAF celebration of the 75th anniversary of RCAF 408 Squadron which one of the first squadrons in Bomber Command in 1941! Our Bomber Command Museum and Halifax 57 Rescue loaned great artifacts to the celebration and we also sent up our Bristol Hercules engine team to run our "pet monster" engine twice at the 408 Squadron festivities at CFB Edmonton where the 75th anniversary was held.

We opened the Friday meet and greet celebrations with a Hercules run and then the next day opened the gala dinner with a giant flag raising and an engine run! See photo of Ben Schwartz and yours truly waiting with monster for the green light to crank her and convert gasoline to noise for the 400+ people in attendance at the gala dinner. (yes, we changed into our suits right after and did not get too oily in our unique duties!) A wonderful celebration for 408 Squadron.

Remember, 408 Squadron flew 4 engines bombers (Halifaxes and Lancs) for almost 4 years and the engine they used the most was the Bristol Hercules engine which was on their Halifaxes and their Lancaster Mk.II, so this engine was very symbolic with its presence at the 408 Squadron celebrations

So let us move on to the progress on the Halifax HR871 recovery in Sweden. I am preparing to travel to Sweden later this week on Thurs. June 30, with Jim Blondeau who will capture the beginning adventure on video as we dive and uncover more Halifax. We will be there 5 days as work with the dive team. Our "Swedish Coast and Sea Center" dive team lead by Jan Christensen went out again for a 3rd dive on HR871 on this last Sat. June 25. With the Halifax now basically plotted, with small portions of airframe above the sand bottom, Jan and his team have been able to identify where the Halifax center-section, the heart of the Halifax, is laying.

Jan was able to work out how the center-section was oriented inside our grid and then worked outwards and found a wing section laying about 1 foot (20 centimeters) under the sand! See his photo showing a small portion of the wing. But to move all this sand will require a big underwater vacuum to do the job and we are not there yet. See his photo from 2 days ago when the discovery was made. If only I could get my Swedish lads to appreciate Johnnie Cash and his song "One piece at a time", then they would think it was cool too. See the 3rd photo of the divers on site during their recon and discoveries.

STANDBY for almost live UPDATES from onsite, over the Halifax HR871 location off the coast of Sweden this coming weekend of July 1 to 3, where will spend my CANADA DAY, bobbing for bombers! Wait there is more. For we have heard from the local deep seaport closest to the location of our Halifax recovery that they have granted and donated the important resources cranes, forklifts, trucks, and a warehouse staging area for us to bring our recovered Halifax to land!! What a great boost this is after we went to see them in April to request their logistical support for saving the Halifax. I do not need to tell you how important this is to our recovery budget and helping with keeping the recovery going to full completion this summer.

We do not want any delays or stoppage of the recovery because of costs going up. The seaport assistance is a big boost for all of us and we will keep you full informed on all the progress. Please let me remind you this is a work in progress and we can see this historic project through to a successful completion this summer if you will stick with us and pass on our appeal for support to all your contacts, friends, and historically minded people. The power of social media is in your hands and this resource gives you a chance to share our project with the world.