



Leslie Thomas
(1921 – 1943)

Leslie Thomas was the type of man who lived his life for his community. He was the proud son of Edwin Thomas and Violet Fader, born July 2, 1921. Always a well-known and enthusiastic face on Sackville streets, Thomas busily took to his studies and attended Lower Sackville School in his formative years, located at the foot of the Sackville Cross Road, on the Old Sackville Road. He enjoyed life to the fullest, and had a fondness for skiing.

The whole of Sackville banded together to boost his spirits when he was just sixteen. Thomas spent the better part of a year in a body cast to correct a curvature in his spine. His classmates thought so highly of him that they took up a collection and bought him a radio to help pass the time. That's just the type of man Leslie Thomas was, a caring community minded citizen, who not only loved growing up in Sackville, but a person a community could not help but love.

Deciding what to do with his life, Thomas chose to become a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941. Thomas ended up moving away to St. Thomas, Ontario, to study and eventually ended up in Jarvis, a small Ontario community. He was eventually stationed back in Nova Scotia.

Leslie E. Thomas spent the last six months of his short life in Yarmouth. Out on a training mission, he along with four other

soldiers perished in a plane crash. Details surrounding the crash are sketchy, but it is believed that the plane the men were travelling in suffered from engine failure. The plane they were in crashed on landing, January 8, 1943. Thomas died when he was just 21, six months shy of his twenty-second birthday.



The funeral and tributes were the longest ever seen by Sackville residents. His cortege was reportedly near a mile long. The service was held at the St. John Anglican Church and at the home of his parents.



In 1975, a fitting tribute was paid to Thomas. A school bearing his name was opened on Metropolitan Avenue, Leslie Thomas Junior High School.