

# Biesenthal lands national coaching job

Laryssa Biesenthal has been named a full-time assistant coach with Rowing Canada.

A two-time Olympian and native of Walkerton, the 33-year-old Biesenthal is the first female to land a full-time coaching position with the rowing team.

Last year, working on contracts, Biesenthal coached Canada's lightweight women's double crew, which finished first at the Lucerne World Cup and eighth at the Olympics in Athens. Previously, she coached the 2003 Pan Am rowing team and other development crews.

Biesenthal, who now makes her home in Victoria, BC, was unavailable for comment last week.

According to a news release from Rowing Canada, Biesenthal will be working with the head coach of Canada's female teams, Al Morrow, out of both the Victoria and London training centres.

Under Morrow's guidance, Biesenthal won a bronze medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta



Laryssa Biesenthal

in 1996, while rowing in the women's fours event. She captured another bronze medal in 2000 as part of Canada's women's eights crew in Sydney.

Biesenthal, who graduated from Sacred Heart High School, began rowing in 1990 while attending the University of British Columbia. Since then, she has placed in the top three numerous times at the World Championships, World Cups and other international regattas.

Rowing Canada's high performance director, Alan Roaf, said Biesenthal is a welcome addition to the coaching staff, given that the teams are preparing for the Beijing Olympics.

"Laryssa has been an outstanding competitor over the years, winning several medals at the Olympics and World Championships," said Roaf. "She brings that excellence to her coaching role and has already made a significant contribution to the national team as a coach over the last two seasons."

Laryssa's father, Dave and her brother, Scott rent land for cash cropping along the South Line.

## Bus Buddies campaign is over!



The Bus Buddies Committee at Brucelea Haven celebrated the end of its fundraising campaign last week with an appreciation luncheon, followed by cake and entertainment for all of the residents in the common room. The committee raised \$84,000 in a single year to purchase a handicapped accessible bus, which arrived at the home this past June. Committee members are, from left, chair Jim Bolden, Francis Zettler, Eleanor MacEwen, Kim Kocher, Joe Jagelewski, Lorriane Merchant, Dorothy Merchant, and Doug Schnurr.

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Christine Brandt photo