

Friends of H.M.C.S Haida



“Up Spirits” Volume 28 | June 2018

President’s Message:

Well, it may have been quiet but we have been busy down at the ship. There have been many interesting happenings, so here’s the scoop!

In 2017, Parks Canada decided that all park’s sites would not charge an admission fee for the summer of 2107. All sites were free for the public with the use of a free Park’s Canada pass. Would you believe that we had just over 45,000 visitors on HMCS HAIDA? This made for a busy summer for our volunteers. Many thanks to our volunteers who helped make the H.M.C.S HAIDA National Historic Site #2 of 185 Attractions in Hamilton, as voted by “Trip Advisor” last summer.

Ralph Edwards and his team (Crystal Stevenson, Tina Petrie and Sabrina Taylor) did a fantastic job of running the Gift Shop this past summer, increasing revenues significantly over the previous year. Would you believe just over \$44,000.00....that’s a first!

Our educational programs continued to enhance the schools, local youth, and seniors’ groups. We provided additional support to the Garrison Ball, and the MediChair Veteran’s Luncheon, all of which raised the awareness of H.M.C.S HAIDA.

Our relationship with Parks Canada continues to flourish with Ms. Lisa Curtis as the Manager, National Historic Sites. We have been able to finalize and sign our long overdue “License of Occupation” and “Partnership” agreements”. So that project is now finished, we are good for another five years! The Friend’s of H.M.C.S HAIDA look forward to strengthening our working relationship with our proud partner.....Parks Canada.

Our next big project was the renovation of our Museum and Gift Shop, what an undertaking. Many of you may not be aware that our building was put up by students from one of the local colleges, well over ten years ago. It’s a great building, however, there was no insulation and it had a cathedral ceiling. This is not conducive for keeping our artifacts warm during the cool fall nights or frosty winter evenings. These temperature changes were damaging some of our museum pieces.

With the assistance of our volunteers, we gutted the building back to the studs. Local companies such as Insta-Insulation, Burlington Dry Wall, Appleby Systems (our HVAC guys), Welsh Painting, Premium Flooring Burlington and B&M Garage Doors applied their skills. With some nautical negotiating, we were able to receive some favorable pricing and renovate the building to it’s new condition.....stop in for a visit, it’s just gorgeous! Oh, and best of all, we can now take care of all of our special treasures from H.M.C.S HAIDA.

Our most exciting event was the ceremony that allowed H.M.C.S HAIDA to become the ceremonial flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy. On Friday 25 May, HMCS HAIDA flew the Admiral’s Board Flag identifying that an Admiral’s board was underway. On Saturday 26 May, all of the dignitaries, veterans and a cutter full of admirals were on hand for the ceremony as well as two local native chiefs and two Haida Gwaii chiefs from British Columbia.

This was a great day in the history of HMCS HAIDA.....Canada’s Fightingest Ship!

Many thanks to all of the Board of Directors for their continued efforts in taking care of and promoting H.M.C.S HAIDA. On behalf of the Board of Directors we would like to wish all of our “Friends” an enjoyable and safe summer.

Until next time, “Fair Winds and Following Seas”!

www.hmcsaida.com

Walt Dermott
Chairman and President
Friends of H.M.C.S HAIDA

Friends of H.M.C.S Haida



You are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Friends of H.M.C.S HAIDA will be held on :

Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 13:30hrs (1:30PM) at the Wardroom, HMCS STAR, 658 Catherine Street North Hamilton, ON L8L 4V7

The AGM will be held for the purpose of considering and taking action with respect to the following:

- To receive and consider the annual financial statements.
- To elect new directors.
- To transact such further or other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

All members in good standing are eligible to vote at the AGM.

**Walter Dermott
Chairman and President
Board of Directors
Friends of HMCS HAIDA**

Friends of HMCS HAIDA

PROXY

The undersigned member of Friends of H.M.C.S HAIDA hereby appoints Walter Dermott, or failing him, Andy Barber, or instead of either of them, _____ as proxy holder, with full power of substitution, to attend and vote for the undersigned at a meeting of members of the Corporation to be held September 8th, 2018, and at any adjournments, to receive the financial statements of the Corporation, to elect directors, to receive such reports concerning the activities of the Corporation as may be placed before the meeting, and to consider or conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

I hereby revoke any proxy previously given.

DATED: _____, 2018.

Name of Member (Please Print)

Signature

**Please send proxy by fax to:
905-388-0812 or mail to:**

**Friends of H.M.C.S HAIDA
c/o 658 Catharine St. North,
Hamilton, ON L8L 4V7.**

**Please allow enough time for
mail to arrive prior to the AGM.**

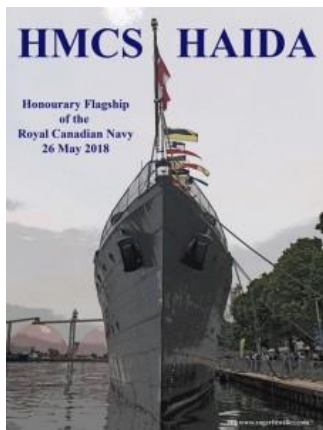
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HMCS HAIDA: Flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy

by Roger Litwiller, May 31, 2018

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HMCS HAIDA, the last Tribal class destroyer has been dedicated “Flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy,” in a ceremony at her permanent berth in Hamilton, Ontario on 26 May 2018. This historic ship has often been described as “Canada’s Fightingest Ship,” having seen active service in the Second World War, Korea and the early days of the Cold War. HAIDA has earned an impressive list of Battle Honours with actions including sinking enemy U-Boats, ships and destroying trains, escorting convoys to Russia, patrols of the Normandy Beaches during the invasion of France and patrols during the Korean War.

HMCS HAIDA Battle Honours and Badge HAIDA was commissioned into the RCN on 30 August 1943 at the height of WWII. She remained in service until her paying off on 11 October 1963. Destined for the breakers yard, Peter Ward and a small group of past and current RCN sailors formed HAIDA Inc. and aggressively fought to preserve this historic ship. Their determination and personal sacrifice was rewarded when HAIDA was moved to Toronto in August 1964 and opened as a Museum Ship at Ontario Place.



HMCS HAIDA

Battle Honours and Badge



HMCS HAIDA in Toronto in 1977

Roger Litwiller Collection, © Robert Litwiller

Although her boilers were cold and machinery silent, HAIDA remained a living ship. Thousands of visitors toured the destroyer and over the years many Sea Cadets lived in ship for training and discovering first hand the legacy of the RCN.

In 2002, HAIDA became a National Historic Site under Parks Canada and following an extensive mid-life refit,

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the destroyer was moved to her permanent berth in Hamilton, ON alongside the Naval Reserve Unit, HMCS STAR. The day before the ceremony the RCN's Naval Board held their meetings in HMCS HAIDA.

It was not just the legacy of this ship, during her 20 years in commission, that was celebrated on 26 May, but also the service and sacrifice of the many thousands of Canadian sailors, past and present, that have served in the Royal Canadian Navy.

The festivities started the day before the service, when HAIDA was closed to the public for the meeting of the RCN's Naval Board. The board consists of senior RCN staff and they meet to discuss the current and future operations of the Navy.

I was honoured to attend the Ceremony at HMCS HAIDA and meet with friends, Lt.(N) Sean Livingston and Pascale Guindon from Parks Canada wearing a reproduction of a WRCNS uniform.



Roger Litwiller Collection, © Roger Litwiller



Roger Litwiller Collection, © Roger Litwiller

Saturday, the very large crowd was greeted with a truly festival atmosphere, tents and displays had been set up by the RCN and Parks Canada, several Parks Canada staff were wearing period uniforms of the RCN and Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service and several hundred very pusser looking Canadian sailors in dress white uniforms. HAIDA herself was dressed from stem to stern in signal flags, her brass bell on the brow, shined in the bright sunlight.

The local Naval Reserve Unit, HMCS STAR played host, at 1030 sharp the ceremony began.

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A massed Guard of Honour, Colour Party and Naval Band marched on to the parade consisting of sailors from five Naval Reserve Units, including STAR and HMCS YORK from Toronto, HMCS PREVOST from London, HMCS CATARAQUI from Kingston and HMCS GRIFFON from Thunder Bay.

Once in position the dignitaries arrived and Vice-Admiral Ron Lloyd, Commander of the RCN took the General Salute. Blessings were provided by local Indigenous partners from the Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the New Credit. Mr. Bob Bratina, Member of Parliament for Hamilton East—Stoney Creek, representing the Government of Canada gave the following remarks,

“Parks Canada’s national historic sites reflect the rich and varied heritage of our nation and provide an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about our diverse history. The Government of Canada deeply appreciates the service and sacrifice of those who serve, and have served, in Canada’s armed forces during armed conflict and in times of peace. HMCS Haida’s ceremonial commissioning as the flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy is an opportune moment to pause and reflect on the contributions made by our veterans for the cause of freedom. This moment is particularly fitting, as the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets are celebrating their centennial this year.”

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*The Naval Ensign fly's from HMCS HAIDA's stern once again.
Roger Litwiller Collection, courtesy Roger Litwiller*



*Vice-Admiral Ron Lloyd at HMCS HAIDA
Flagship Ceremony.
Roger Litwiller Collection, © Roger Litwiller*

At precisely 1100 all eyes turned to HAIDA as the ship's bell was rung six times, the piping party sounded the still on the bosun's call and the Canadian Naval Ensign and Jack were raised on HAIDA's fo'c'sle and stern for the first time. The Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum then performed a flypast of a WWII C47 Transport aircraft.

Speeches resumed with VAdm LLOYD welcoming HAIDA back to the RCN as Flagship, stating,

“This is a tremendous day for both the Royal Canadian Navy and for Parks Canada. HMCS Haida exemplifies the values of our naval personnel in uniform – service above self; courage in the face of immense danger; indomitable spirit; and the relentless pursuit of excellence. As Flagship of the RCN, Haida now stands as a permanent reminder of the sacrifice and courage of Canada's sailors, so that future generations of Canadians and sailors can be inspired by its story and the proud traditions of our Royal Canadian Navy.”

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Remarks were also given by representatives of Parks Canada and the Mayor of Hamilton. Walt Dermott, Chairman, Friends of HAIDA remarked,

“We’re very proud the HMCS Haida will take its place again in the Royal Canadian Navy ... we’re beaming from ear to ear and are very, very proud.” Mr. Dermott then went on to credit,

“The push for designation started with a group called Project Naval Distinction.” A common accolade, fittingly repeated throughout the day was to Peter Ward and his group, HAIDA Inc. for having the foresight and determination to see this historic ship preserved for future generations and the current Friends of HAIDA for ensuring her legacy continues.

Two Haida Nation Hereditary Chiefs attended the ceremony representing the ship's namesake Indigenous People located in British Columbia. They spoke of the record of the ship and how proudly she has carried the Haida name. They presented VAdm Lloyd with a Haida Nation flag. Accepting the treasured gift, the Vice-Admiral immediately dispatched a runner to raise the flag on HAIDA's port yardarm to fly for all to see.



*The Haida Indigenous nation were represented by two Hereditary Chiefs at the ceremony. Together they presented the ship with a Haida Nation Flag.
Roger Litwiller Collection, © Roger Litwiller*



*Friend's Of HAIDA's Gunners fired a salvo from the destroyers "A" turret.
Roger Litwiller Collection, © Roger Litwiller*

The ceremony's came to a close with a salvo fired from HAIDA's "A" turret, followed by the massed Naval Band playing a rousing Heart Of Oak, with many in the happy crowd singing the words of the RCN Anthem aloud.

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Combined Naval Band from HMCS STAR and HMCS YORK played Heart Of Oak, ending the ceremony.

Roger Litwiller Collection, © Roger Litwiller

I was honoured to be invited to witness this historic event, HAIDA has always held a place in my heart, I was one of those Sea Cadets that lived and trained in her. Each year my cadet corps, RCSCC WARSPITE would travel from Kitchener and stay for four days over the Labour Day weekend. With training and acting as tour guides during the day and shore leave at night in the old blue uniform at the CNE, each night slinging a “mick” from the deckhead. In the late 70’s, I was part of the work party that cleaned and scrubbed the engine room so it could be opened to the public.

Because of the early work of Peter Ward and Haida Inc. and the current dedication by the Friends of Haida, Project Naval Distinction, Parks Canada and the RCN designating HMCS HAIDA as Flagship, this important piece of Canada’s history will remain available for future generation to discover.

Roger Litwiller is a historian and published author on the legacy of the Royal Canadian Navy, with several books and magazine articles published. His research has allowed him to lecture across Canada on the legacy of Canada’s Sailors. You can discover Roger’s blog on www.rogerlitwiller.com and follow his daily RCN history posts on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/RLitwiller> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rogerlitwiller>.



My work party from RCSCC WARSPITE in HAIDA’s Engine Room in 1977.

Roger Litwiller Collection, © Roger Litwiller

Friends of H.M.C.S Haida

Crossing the Bar

The following crew members and volunteers
"Crossed the Bar" since our last newsletter:

Thomas Armstrong, Crew
John (Jack) Billyard, Crew
Ken Bough, Crew
John (Jack) Cain, Volunteer
James Gower, Crew
Gerald (Johno) Johnson, Volunteer
Bill Kiser, Crew
George H. Mannix, Crew
H.A. Porter, VAdm (Ret'd), Crew
W.(Bill) C. (Bud) Smith, Volunteer
Keith Wood, Volunteer

We will remember them



It's our 75th and you're all invited!

This year H.M.C.S HAIDA is celebrating 75 years since her launch August 25, 1942.

She was built during the Second World War, and is now the last survivor of the twenty-seven Tribal Class destroyers.

Join us, August 25, pier 9 in Hamilton, ON for a day full of fun for the whole family. Refreshments and activities have been planned for your entertainment.

Come explore the decks of the ol'girl with a Friends of H.M.C.S HAIDA volunteer, that's when history comes to life!

www.hmcshaida.com



Upcoming Events



Annual General Meeting
Saturday, September 8, 2018
at 1:30 p.m.

HMCS STAR's Ward Room
658 Catherine St. N.
Hamilton Ont. L8L 4V7

Call Friends of HMCS HAIDA
at 905 523-0682
or send e-mail to
info@hmcshaida.com for
more information

Friends of H.M.C.S Haida



“A” Gun Crew Back in Action

by Jeff Topping

On May 25, HAIDA’s “A” gun awoke in preparation of her Commissioning as the Honourary Flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy. A group of eager members of Friends of HMCS HAIDA gathered on deck to receive gun crew training under the direction of John MacLeod from Parks Canada and Peter Dixon from Friends of H.M.C.S HAIDA (FoH).



From Left to Right: John MacLeod, Bob Lively, Sandy Kenyon, Jeff Topping and Darryl Jones

The crew were kitted with the proper rig and flash gear and quickly set about to learn from the experts. Instruction and hands on drill was conducted to properly Lay, Train, Load and Fire HAIDA’s mighty guns.

The following morning the newly trained “A” Gun Crew assembled prepared for duty and awaited the command to fire the guns.

Once the many honours were voiced and the Commissioning conducted the newly appointed commanding officer Lieutenant Commander Stephen Churm gave the order “gun crew fire the guns” and HAIDA proudly responded with 2 rounds.

Once the guns were secure the crew had an opportunity to reflect upon the tremendous honour it had been to participate and the incredible task actual gun crews had during active duty.

Special thank you to Walt Dermott, Board Chair and President for working with Parks Canada to secure our place as “A” Gun Crew for the Commissioning and in the future.

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“Movie Night in Korea” aboard the HAIDA

by Andy Barber, Vice-President / Director of Volunteers

One of the stories I like to tell to our visitors when they come aboard the HAIDA during the season is what I call “Movie Night in Korea”. Entertainment aboard was rather sparse when we were alongside. Our American Navy friends on the other hand were privy to all of the latest movies even before they hit the theatres in North America. Alas, their Navy was a “dry” Navy. That is, they were not permitted to have any type of alcohol aboard their ships.

The Canadian Navy on the other hand, were allotted a portion of dark rum and 3 pints of beer daily. The rum was supposed to stave off scurvy and was called a “grog”. It was named after British Admiral Grog, who instituted this practice in the 1700’s. So, some of our petty officers using their guile, offered the Americans a sumptuous portion of our rum and beer in exchange for the loan of their movies.

The Americans came aboard and set up their projector and screen on the 3’50” gun deck and we all crowded around the gun and other areas of the deck to watch these



movies much to our delight. Some of the movies were “Gone with the Wind”, “A Street Car Named Desire” “Giant” and many other blockbusters of the 1950’s.

Our American comrades sat there as well, enjoying copious amounts of rum and beer. This became a little more pronounced whenever we had a double header. They got a little more snookered and we had to help them down the ladders and off the ship to their jeeps so they could return to their ships.

All in all it made for a great night of entertainment, both with the movies and the aftermath of sending our American buddies home.



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Friends of H.M.C.S Haida



Membership / Donation Options

Revenue Canada Business Number 14077 3649 RR0001

Please check off your choices below:

- DONATION** \$ _____
- MEMBERSHIP** | **\$50** | Membership Card, digital "Up Spirits", 1 vote at AGM
- SHIP SUPPORTER** | **\$100** | As above, plus Day Pass to HMCS HAIDA *
- GOLD** | **\$250** | As above, but with Family Day Pass to H.M.C.S HAIDA *
- PLATINUM** | **\$500** | As above, but with Family Season Pass, Hat & Golf Shirt *
- LIFE SUPPORTER** | **\$1500** | As above, plus opportunity to fire the "Noon Gun" +
Certificate *
- RESTORATION FUND** | Maintenance & restoration projects in and around the ship
\$ _____
- EDUCATION FUND** | School visits to promote the history of H.M.C.S HAIDA and
other educational projects
\$ _____
- IN MEMORIUM OF** | A donation in the memory of an individual that has
"Crossed the Bar"
\$ _____

Name: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please make cheques payable to "Friends of H.M.C.S HAIDA" and mail to: Friends of H.M.C.S HAIDA 658 Catharine Street North, Hamilton ON L8L 4V7 OR visit www.hmcshaida.com to join, volunteer or donate. Tax receipts are issued at the end of each month.

***Redeemable with membership card in our Gift Shop at time of visit only.**