

# Friends of H.M.C.S Haida

## *Up Spirits* Spring 2020

### President's Message

I hope this message finds you healthy and safe during these challenging times. With uncertainty around so much in our lives as we deal with COVID 19 I wanted to share with you information regarding HMCS HAIDA.

First I am very thankful for the many volunteers who take time out of their lives to share HAIDA with others. Volunteers and supporters help to bring our great ship to life for all of the visitors each year. Behind the scene there is an outstanding Board of Directors who work year round to ensure the long term success of our organization. I believe I speak for all in saying we look forward to getting back to normal and aboard HAIDA. For the time being however we all must stay safe and remain healthy.



### Season Opening

At the moment Parks Canada has a hold on all activities across the country so that their people can remain healthy and safe. So far a date has not been set for the opening of HAIDA for the season. The team will be reviewing the status of COVID 19 sometime around mid-April. Once I know the outcome of their decision I will share with this group. The leadership has been great to deal with and I appreciate their efforts to keep me informed as best as possible. They all look forward to getting beyond this crisis and getting back to normal when the time is right.

The gift shop will remain closed until we are given the go ahead from Parks Canada for an opening. I know Ralph Edwards and his team have been keeping busy securing stock and prepping for an opening when the time comes. We do hope to have an online shop available in the near future to service those who cannot make it to the gift shop in person.



### Board Meetings

The Board normally holds a monthly a face to face meeting at STAR in order to conduct business as required. We will continue to meet with this month's meeting being held VIA webcast/phone conference. Work continues as possible with a focus on updating our Website which will include the ability for online shopping in the future. Social Media continues to keep HAIDA followers engaged and in their thoughts. Financially we are in good shape and our bills continue to get paid.

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## Battle of the Atlantic



I received a message from Vice Admiral McDonald regarding Battle of Atlantic ceremonies and events.

The RCN has decided to officially defer this year's BOA commemoration activities (including the ceremony at the War Memorial on Sunday 3 May (and other navy-driven ceremonial events at cities/towns across the country) and the run-up events in the days and weeks immediately preceding the ceremony). It is intended that there will be a reset to have all previously planned 75th anniversary BOA commemoration events, ceremonies and gala scheduled for a Fall date – perhaps coincident with NIOBE Day (TBD) – if the pandemic situation allows.

This included the memorial at the end of April for ATHABASKAN which was to be held at STAR. I will share any additional information regarding these events when received.



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### RCN

Some of you may have noticed that STAR and the RCN in general have modified how they are operating during these critical times. This is all in an effort for members to remain safe, healthy and ready to help Canadians should they be called upon. This could be for COVID 19 related needs or generally this is the time of year that a domestic response is needed in the area to deal with spring flooding. Prior to the outbreak I did have the opportunity to meet with Vice Admiral McDonald at DND Headquarters. We discussed HAIDA as the flagship of the RCN in great detail and ways for us to connect along with Parks Canada in a more significant and structured way. I do not have details to share with you at this time however the work in this regard will resume once things become normal once again. I will say that the Vice Admiral has made HAIDA a priority for his command team and I believe we will see some action as a result.



This week I had the honour of welcoming the Commander Maritime Forces Pacific Rear Admiral Auchterlonie (right) and Maritime Forces Pacific Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Blonde (left) aboard HAIDA for a tour.

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### Celebrating Our Volunteers



The Governor General Warrant states the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation be

"...awarded to individuals who have performed commendable service to the Veteran community and/or individuals who represent commendable role models for their fellow Veterans."

The Commendation is awarded annually to deserving recipients.

### Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers Recipients – Mike Vencel, Ron Kirk & Andy Barber

The **Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers** is a Canadian decoration intended to honour volunteers who have made a significant and continual contribution to their community, either in Canada or abroad. We are very proud of these individuals and congratulate them on their much-deserved recognition. We will celebrate then when our volunteer appreciation event can be rescheduled.

### In Closing

In closing I thank you once again for your continued commitment and dedication to HAIDA and our organization. I appreciate your continued support and look forward to connecting with you in the near future.

I ask that you keep our current serving members of the Royal Canadian Navy in your thoughts as they are often serving at sea in isolation so that they remain safe, healthy and fit for duty. In particular the family and friends of our fallen members who are grieving their recent loss.

Stay safe and healthy,

Yours aye,

Jeff Topping

[www.hmcshaida.com](http://www.hmcshaida.com)

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### Membership / Donation Options



Please check off your choices below:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DONATION</b>			\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	\$50	Membership Card, E-mailed issues of "Up Spirits", 1 vote at AGM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SHIP SUPPORTER</b>	\$100	As above, plus Day Pass to HMCS HAIDA *	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>GOLD SUPPORTER</b>	\$250	As above, but with Family Day Pass to HMCS HAIDA *	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PLATINUM SUPPORTER</b>	\$500	As above, but with Family Season Pass, Hat & Golf Shirt *	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>LIFE SUPPORTER</b>	\$1500	As above, plus Certificate *	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>RESTORATION FUND</b> - maintenance & restoration projects in and around the ship			\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EDUCATION FUND</b> - school visits to promote the history of HMCS HAIDA and other educational projects			\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>IN MEMORIUM OF</b> – 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 pay by cheque made payable to "Friends of HMCS HAIDA" and mail to: Friends of HMCS HAIDA  
658 Catharine Street North, Hamilton ON L8L 4V7 **OR** Electronic Bank Transfer to [anurgagin@aol.com](mailto:anurgagin@aol.com) with  
notation of Membership and/or Donation. Tax receipts are issued at the end of each month.

Visit [www.hmcshaida.com](http://www.hmcshaida.com) to join, or volunteer

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