

Up Spirits



FRIENDS OF H.M.C.S. HAIDA



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Museum Ships

Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park

Only one hundred kilometres down the QEW from HMCS HAIDA is the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park, which has three museum ships including the Fletcher Class destroyer USS THE SULLIVANS. Commissioned only one month after HMCS HAIDA, she is one of four Fletcher Class destroyers preserved as museum ships out of one hundred seventy-five built, the

largest destroyer class in the world. The park also has the Cleveland Class cruiser, USS LITTLE ROCK and the Gato Class submarine, USS CROAKER, similar to the former HMCS GRILSE. The park is open from April through October. FOH is planning a visit to the park for our local members so they can compare the two destroyer classes and see how the ship is preserved and displayed.

HMCS Scotian's Haida Wall

Halifax's Naval Reserve Division, HMCS SCOTIAN, now has its own wall (bulkhead?) devoted to HMCS HAIDA. CPO2 Pat Devenish met Friends of HMCS Haida while serving in HMCS HALIFAX during its Great Lakes cruise in 2007. Being a naval history buff, and very much a supporter of HAIDA and her glorious history, Pat decided to do something to tell HAIDA's story back in Halifax. HMCS SCOTIAN now has a model of HAIDA, a framed picture of the ship, and most recently the WWII version of HAIDA's crest.



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USS The Sullivans



FRIENDS of HMCS HAIDA

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"Up Spirits" is the newsletter of
Friends of HMCS HAIDA. Address all
communications to the editor, Neil Bell,
at the above address.

Routine Orders

We focus on events on the ship or in the Hamilton area. If you would like your event mentioned, please let us know. For more information about any of these events, please contact the ship's office at 905-523-0682.

31 March 2011 – Black Tot Day 1972

Raise a glass with all those who mourn the passing of this hallowed tradition.

30 April 2011@ 13:30

67th Anniversary Commemoration of the sinking of HAIDA's sister ship, HMCS ATHABASKAN to be held at HMCS STAR. We are hopeful that representative members of the ship's company of HMCS ATHABASKAN III will be able to attend as they have in the past.

1 May 2011

Battle of Atlantic Commemorations at HMCS STAR & HMCS HAIDA

4 May 2011 – 101st Anniversary of the Canadian Navy

Canadian Naval Service from 4 May 1910 until it became Royal Canadian Navy on 29 August, 1911, and subsequently Maritime Command of the Canadian Forces on 1 February 1968.

16 May 2011 – 22nd Annual General Meeting

To be held at HMCS STAR

21 May 2011 – Projected ship opening

Due to construction on the ship, the opening date may vary from the traditional Victoria Day weekend this year.

24-26 June 2011 – Polish Navy Days

To honour HAIDA's twinning with ORP BLYSKAWICA, we will focus on the Polish Navy's role in the Second World War.

1 July 2011

Traditionally, this is the busiest day of the year for HAIDA with free admission, cake & hoopla.

16 July 2011 – Canada's Parks Day

Another free admission day, Parks Canada will have some festivities planned to celebrate their anniversary.

27 July 2011 – Korean War Memorial

Friends of HAIDA and HMCS HAIDA Association members join others at The Korean War Memorial at Meadowvale Cemetery in Brampton to commemorate the 58th anniversary of the signing of the armistice.

Help Wanted

- HMCS HAIDA Wants You! We are always looking for new volunteers, either to serve as docents on the ship and help visitors, or to work on maintenance and restoration projects onboard, or to help with our organization in the ship's Canteen or Office. If you are local and interested, please give us a call.
- We often get questions in the Ship's Office, often from children or nieces or nephews, regarding parents or uncles or grandparents who may have served in HAIDA. In order to compile a crew list, some time ago I put out an internet appeal for names of those who had served at any time in HMCS HAIDA with their rank, rate and dates of service. My list now amounts to four hundred twenty-eight which is surely a small fraction of those who served during her twenty year commission. If you know of any who did serve in HAIDA, please let me know at hmcs-haida@bellnet.ca.
- I am trying to compile a reference library of naval manuals relevant to the ship. If you have any BRCN or variants that could use a good home, please let me know.
- While our storage and display space is extremely limited, if anyone with items of naval kit, uniforms, badges, medals, etc. that they are thinking of disposing of, could contact us to see if we could use them on the ship, it would be most appreciated.

Ship's Office

As of the end of December, we have 186 regular members. Membership is for one year from the date that it is received. Membership cards and tax receipts are processed monthly so it may be some time before you receive them. You should receive a notice in the mail letting you know that your membership has expired or will soon expire.

If you are trying to reach the Ship's Office, I'm only there three days a week (normally, Monday through Wednesday) so please be patient. I will respond to queries as soon as I am able.

Crossing the Bar

*Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;*

*For through from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar.*

Fairbarns, David K. Coder, V-43401 – 9 January 2011.

A member of the commissioning crew of HAIDA in 1943 at the age of 19.

Fair Winds and following seas.



Rounds

Anti-aircraft fire control for HMCS HAIDA was carried out by the Mk 63 GFC (Mk29 gunsight & SPG34 radar = Mk63 Gunfire Control System), a combination of SPG34 radars mounted on "B" 4" gun and "X" 3"/50 gun along with Mk29 gunsights in tubs on the bridge and on top of the after superstructure. The bridge gunsight is still there but at some point the after sight mounting was removed, probably because of corrosion damage.

Late last fall, the deck of the after superstructure (above the 3"/50 ready-use magazine, Mk 34 radar compartment and Ordnance Workshop), which was badly corroded with consequent leakage into the spaces below, was replaced. Parks Canada took opportunity of the work to have a replica gunsight

tub constructed and the original sight replaced. The picture below taken from the port quarter shows the new sight in its tub just forward of the galley "Charlie Noble". Both forward and after sights now sport fresh new canvas covers. This spring, the plan is to replace more of the deck above the Squid Handling Room aft of the 3"/50 gun. These two projects are estimated to cost approximately \$200,000.

Mine, all Mine!

When the ship was in Toronto, there was a mine originally located on the quarterdeck and then later on the dock alongside. At some point, the mine was sent to The Naval Museum of Alberta located in Calgary. In December, the mine returned to

HMCS HAIDA to be installed as part of a shore display in the spring. Although HAIDA never carried mines, many destroyers did at one point or another and many ships were sunk by mines. The mine has been identified as a British Mk XV11 mine which was about four feet in diameter and weighed 562 pounds. It carried between 320 to 500 pounds of explosive which was detonated by one of the switch horns located around the mine.



Naval Poetry

While visiting a Parks Canada staffer some weeks ago, I noticed that he had a picture of what was clearly a Tribal Class destroyer in an exotic looking harbour. When trying to determine where it was, I remarked on the strange gondola looking craft in the picture and commented that I thought it was probably Valetta Harbour in Malta. That led to the name of the Maltese craft which are called dhaighsoe (die-so) which, in turn, led to the singer Cyril Tawney, a former Royal Navy Petty Officer (1946-1959), who wrote a song called Sammy's Bar which mentions the boats. Here's one of Cyril's songs, which I think will resonate with some of you.

That's What It's Like In The Navy

I wish I'd never joined for a sailor, mother dear,
I've seen some places in my time, but nothing like this 'ere,
The girls won't let us court them and the canteen's out of beer,
And that's what it's like in the Navy.

They covered us with honours, and praises far from faint,
They showered us with medals, 'gainst which we've no complaint
But we'd rather that our "Jimmy" hadn't covered us with paint,
And that's what it's like in the Navy.

And when we started rolling, we rolled an awful lot,
Some people lost their balance, or their dinner, on the spot,
But the whole of bloody Two Mess went and lost their soddin' tot
And that's what it's like in the Navy.

There were tough guys in the Navy when Francis banged his drum
And chaps like Hawkins chewed up glass instead of chewing gum
But even they weren't tough enough to drink Maltese water in their rum,
And that's what it's like in the Navy.

*A modern dhaighsoe
– note the outboard motor.*



Cayuga Nearly Loses Alice

Cayuga: 2nd Korean trip, 1951-52

On Board HMCS Cayuga --- Petty Officer Wren Alice, Cayuga's No 1 canine mascot, nearly lost her life recently all because of a patch of oil on a tanker's deck.

The mishap was the result of a habit she had of jumping from her own ship to a tanker during fuelling operations. While the Cayuga was fuelling alongside RFA Wave Chief in a Korean Harbour, Alice paid her usual call to the oiler. As she started to jump back aboard Cayuga, she slipped on a patch of oil which sent her tumbling and yelping into the narrow strip of water between the two ships. Much of what happened afterwards is liable to be disbelieved, but the ship's company swears to it.

Alice put her back against the tanker's side and her feet against the

destroyer and "walked" herself clear of the sea. Concerned with Alice's predicament and fearing she would be squeezed to death between the ships, Ldg. Seaman James Tyre of Vancouver who had been feeding and carrying for Alice months past, called to the bridge to ask for a gun to shoot the dog.

But the captain, Commander James Plomer, had already perceived the situation and had ordered an urgent pipe: "Clear lower decks - rescue Alice between ships.!" It is said that the order drew an even swifter reaction than the action station bell.

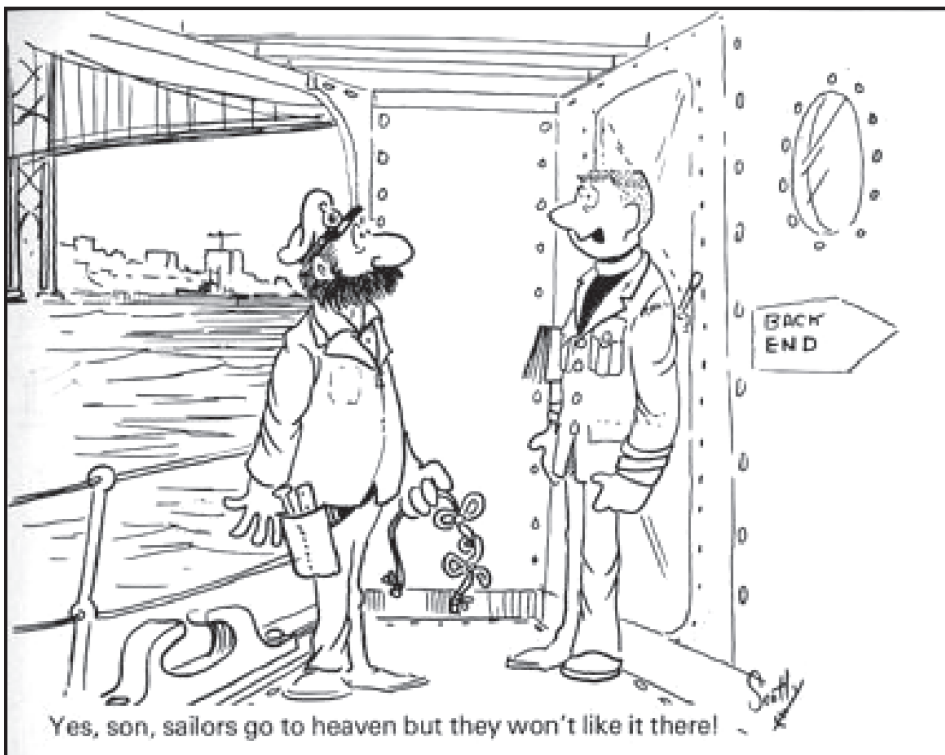
The lines were slackened aft. Bearing off spars were used. Both ships parted a little and AB Norman Nelson of Vancouver put the final and successful finish to the incident. AB

Nelson slid down Cayuga's side on a line, took hold of Alice by the scruff of her neck and lifted her to safety where many willing hands reached out to help.

Jim Tyre with Alice. As of 2009, Jim Tyre is still around and living on the West coast. Story submitted by Bill Buchan, Victoria BC



Padre's Corner



21st Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on Monday, 18th October at HMCS STAR. The Board thanked the outgoing President and Vice President, LCdr Glenna Swing, and Captain(Ret'd) Martin Pandzich, who were leaving the Board, for their service and welcomed new Board members, Bruce Tidd and Mike Vencel, to the Board. Lest the Board be accused of not being inclusive, two former soldiers, Major(Ret'd) Ken Lloyd and WO(Ret'd) John Dolbec, were elected to the two top positions on the Board, President and Vice President, while new Board members, Bruce Tidd, accepted the position of Treasurer. Even though our financial year runs from April to the end of March, we have always held our Annual Meetings in the fall. This year, we will be holding our AGM in May prior to the start of the ship's season. All paid up members are eligible to vote, so please fill out the proxy form below and return it to us if you are unable to attend the meeting in person.

22nd Annual General Meeting Friends of HMCS HAIDA

Proxy

The undersigned member of the Friends of H.M.C.S. HAIDA, being eligible to vote at the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Friends of H.M.C.S. HAIDA, to be held at H.M.C.S. STAR, 650 Catharine Street North, Hamilton ON L8L 4V7 at 7:00 PM, on Monday, 16 May, 2011, hereby appoints:

Ken Lloyd, or John Dolbec, or
Bruce Tidd, or Darryl Jones, or
In place of the foregoing,

_____ of _____

to vote on my behalf, or as otherwise directed by me in writing, in the election of directors, and the conduct of any other business that may properly come before this Annual General meeting, or at any adjournment thereof.

Signed: _____

Name (printed) _____

At _____ (Municipality)

This _____ day of _____, 2011

Membership Options

Please check your choice of annual membership below:

	Basic Membership	\$50	Membership card, a Day Pass to the ship, three issues of our newsletter "Up Spirits" and a vote at AGM
<i>In order to further the goals of Friends of HMCS HAIDA, many people choose to join or renew their memberships at a higher level.</i>			
	Gold Membership	\$100	As above, plus a Family Day pass to HMCS HAIDA
	Platinum Membership	\$250	As above, but with a Family Season pass to HMCS HAIDA
	Life Membership	\$1000	As above, but for life

In addition to my membership, I also wish to make a donation in support of:

	Restoration Fund - maintenance & restoration projects in and around the ship, e.g. the motor cutter display project	\$ _____
	Education Fund - school visits and other educational projects	\$ _____

I am not able to become a member at this time, but still wish to support Friends of HMCS HAIDA.	\$ _____
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All contributions are very much appreciated. Tax receipts will be issued for all memberships and donations of \$25 and over.

Name: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please make cheques payable to "Friends of HMCS HAIDA" and mail to: Friends of HMCS HAIDA, 658 Catharine Street North, Hamilton ON L8L 4V7 or visit www.hmcshaida.ca to join or donate online.


**FRIENDS OF
H.M.C.S. HAIDA**
 658 Catharine St. N., Hamilton ON L8L 4V7



We hope you enjoyed this edition of "Up Spirits"