

Friends of H.M.C.S. Haida

“Up Spirits” Volume 27 | Dec 2015



President's Message

Well, many interesting things have been happening over the past few months, so here is the scuttle.

Let's start off with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) that was held on 24 October 2015. The AGM went well, with updates to the members from all of the departments.

Mr. Ralph Edwards and his team - **Crystal Stevenson**, **Holly Stevenson**, and **Leah Wilson** - did a fantastic job of running the Gift Shop this year increasing revenues significantly over the previous year. From a Governance perspective the Friend's of H.M.C.S. HAIDA have completed all the steps required to continue under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporation's Act and to maintain our status as a registered charity.

The Museum has added a two-pounder POM POM gun to the site on permanent loan from the Canadian Coastal Forces Trust. Our new web site has been launched and the Virtual Reality Project (VR) is underway. Many thanks to our volunteers who helped make the H.M.C.S. HAIDA National Historic Site one of the top attractions in Hamilton, as voted by "TripAdvisor". Our educational programs continued to enhance the schools, local youth, and seniors' groups. We provided additional support to the Hamilton Military Tattoo, Garrison Ball, and the MediChair Veteran's Luncheon, all of which raised the awareness of H.M.C.S. HAIDA.

From Parks Canada we welcomed **Ms. Lisa Curtis** as the new incoming Manager, National Historic Sites, and wish **Mr. Eric Nielsen**, the out going Manager, all the best in his new position with Parks Canada. Oh, by the way Eric is now looking after External Communication for Region and we look forward to continuing to work with him....Bravo Zulu..... Eric Nielsen! The Friend's of H.M.C.S. HAIDA look forward to strengthening our working relationship with our proud partner.....Parks Canada.

For the way ahead, the Board has created a sub-committee to develop a three, five, and ten-year business plan with goals and objectives as to where we want to be in those time frames. Some of these goals include the implementation of a Corporate sponsorship program to fund the Virtual Reality project. Another is to look at ways to improve membership and re-vitalize the volunteer base. As the committee works on the development of these goals, stay tuned for more information. See you at the next year's AGM!



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I am very pleased and honoured to announce that **The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, OC, OOnt** is our Official Patron of the Friends of H.M.C.S. HAIDA. She is the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Representative of Her Majesty The Queen.

From the Board of Directors we have two new outstanding members joining us in support of our Mission. **Mike Logan**, B. Comm, CPA, CMA, who comes to us with a strong financial background, will be taking on the position of the Director of Financial Outreach (Grants). In order to capitalize on our working relationship with HMCS STAR we are also pleased to announce the addition of **Nancy Bunting** to the Board. Nancy is a member of the Naval Reserves (Logistics) posted to HMCS STAR in Hamilton, Ontario and will be looking after special events. Please join me in welcoming these two individuals to the team.

Now here is one for our younger crew (check out our Kids Zone on our web site.....www.hmschaida.com). The announcement of the winners of the colouring contest and the naming of the mascot will be announced shortly.

We now turn our sights to 11 November with thoughts of “Remembrance”. It is important that we all understand the sacrifices of Canadians in uniform over the years. On this somber day of “Remembrance” members of the Canadian Armed Forces (Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen/women) are commemorated. “Remembrance Day” is also called Armistice Day, which marks the date, and time when armies stopped fighting World War I on November 11th at 11am in 1918 (the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month).

Some 100,000 Canadian Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen/women died in the First and Second World Wars. Let us not forget the numerous conflicts and wars since then, from the Korean War through to Afghanistan and the present. Our Servicemen and women give of themselves selfishly so that we all may enjoy the freedoms that Canada offers us all. Their courage, service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.....We will Remember Them!

Now that the H.M.C.S. National Historic Site is closed for the winter season, our volunteers have been extremely busy preparing the Ship for the winter shut down, covering and removing items on the upper decks, and covering over 118 port holes with grease for their protection during the winter months. **A “Bravo Zulu” to all of the volunteers who helped with the winter shut down.**

On behalf of the Board of Directors we would like to wish all of our **“Friends” a very “Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”**.

Until next time “Fair Winds and Following Seas”!

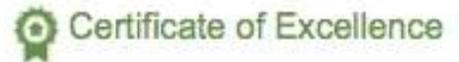
Walt Dermott, CD, Ph.D., RCN
Chairman and President Friends of HMCS Haida

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Our Mascot Naming Contest came to a close at the end of August, and we're delighted to say that we had over 120 participants! FANTASTIC involvement and interest generated for this event. It was a hard decision for the panel of judges but its official - let me introduce you to **PO Crusher!**

A huge BRAVO ZULU to all our participants and your incredible support to name our mascot!

The Perfect *Gift*



See Page 11 for Membership Gift Options

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From the Museum Archives

A0328

Excerpts from the naval history of Howard Elliott compiled by James R Simpson QC titled:

“His Friggin Frigate And The North Atlantic Squadron”

Luck of the Draw

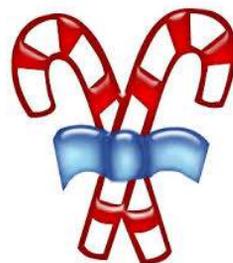
Once Howard and his buddies had completed signals school, they were anxious to receive their posting. One of the first vessels available was the corvette “H.M.C.S. Shawinigan” which was launched in May 1941 but received a major refit in March 1943.

Howard was disappointed not to be chosen for the Shawinigan, He was assigned to HMS Nene where he and the rest of the crew were required to paint and scrub to get their frigate in shape.

On November 24th, 1944 the Shawinigan was providing escort service for the ferry Burgeo from Sydney , Nova Scotia to Port aux Basques, Newfoundland.

The Shawinigan left Burgeo on an independent anti-submarine patrol informing the ferry that it would meet her in the morning.

The Shawinigan was never seen again. It was torpedoed by U-1228 during the morning of November 24th in Cabot Strait.



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HMCS Shawinigan – 24/11/44

Awaiting draft at “Slackers” were we
When it was posted for all to see
Two draft lists side by side on view,
Look for your name, which your crew?



One listed HMCS Shawinigan draftees.
The other ours, and where their quays,
The Shawinigan boys laughed at us
Who drew the Nene, a dirty sea bus.

Took to a ribbing that day in Halifax,
About our ship, but these were the facts;
We had drawn a war torn unkempt Nene,
While they got one spotlessly clean.

Quite a razzing from Shawinigan mates
Some lucky, but who can foretell fates,
While packing their gear and kidding us
...we packed with disgusted cuss.

Shawinigan joined W-2 Group after WUPs,
Nene assigned EG-C5, crying in our cups,
U-1228 decided Shawinigan’s tragic fate,
“Fishing” her in nearby Cabot Strait.

Knowing those boys who joked with us all,
Each November Twenty-fifth we recall
How close it was, the fate of one draft,
We remember... where’er we look abaft.

By S Forsythe Poet master/Signalman HMCS Nene, K270
June 19, 1989

In future issues of “Up Spirits” we will publish addition excerpts from; Howard Elliott’ “His Friggin Frigate”

Bruce Tidd Museum Director



Howard on the bridge

HMCS Shawinigan K136
Lost with all hands while on independent
A/S patrol out of Sydney N.S
25/11/44

R.I.P.



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Welcome to our newest Board member, Nancy Bunting!



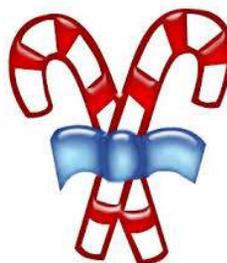
Master Seaman Nancy Bunting was one of four members of the armed forces standing vigil during Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Hamilton cenotaph on Sunday.

The Hamilton Spectator



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FOR
200+ LIKES!**

Like us on our
**NEW Friends of
HMCS Haida
Facebook Page**



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Andy Barber with Lt. (N) Marie Sonya Sowa CD from HMCS Star Oakville Beaver



Crossed the Bar

Gerry (Johno) Johnson
Jim (Tug) Wilson

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

*For tho' 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 crost the bar.*

Alfred Lord Tennyson

**We will remember
them**



Left to Right – Andy Barber, Shannon Caskey, – Director, Development, True Patriot Love, Mike Vencel, Jaime Wilson VP Development, True Patriot Love, Ron Kirk

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Virtual Tour Wows Crowds

On August 30th, people of all ages visited H.M.C.S. Haida to celebrate her 72nd birthday and to experience a hi-tech walk through of three of her compartments. Using Virtual Reality (VR) technology a team of highly skilled volunteers – **Allan Robb, Bernie Roehl & Darren Conley** – constructed the Radio and Engine Rooms and the Deck. Visitors of all ages became immersed in the sight and sound of H.M.C.S. Haida in a digital 3D environment. Kids were thrilled and delighted to see and hear the details of the rooms replicated true to life. It's as though you're really onboard!

So what is VR? Virtual Reality refers to a digital 3D environment that can be accessed and interactive with using a VR headset. Users wear goggles and headphones placing them within a 100% immersive world. Their head and body movements are tracked by the VR application and the environment – what the user sees – reacts accordingly.

With such an upbeat reception we knew we had a hit. Plans are underway to design a VR H.M.C.S. Haida Showcase to take to schools, museums and galleries. We intend to engage a new generation of kids of all ages in Canada and around the world to inspire their imagination and tell the stories of Canada's brave, wartime sailors.

For more pictures of the 72nd Commemorative Birthday, visit our web site and click on **HMCS Haida > Photos & Video.**

It's going to be an exciting 2016.

Stay tuned and come back often!

Barb Shackleton
Director of Marketing



www.hmcshaida.com



VR excitement was contagious



The beautiful birthday cake was completely devoured!

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Education Report

Things have picked up with our Education program in October and November. We had many School classes, Cadet Corp and a group of Naval Officers from the Canadian Forces College in Toronto visit the Ship before the season closed.

A big thanks to **Mike Triska** for coordinating CTV News London to visit the Ship and have them interview some of our Veteran Volunteers. The video can be seen by visiting our web site and clicking **HMCS Haida > Photos & Video** Scroll down the page for videos.

This month we will have more School Classes, Cadet Corps, Scouts, Girl Guides, Brownies, and Cubs, even a minor hockey team. Along with the Vintage Signal Team we have been at the True Patriot Dinner and Fundraising event at the Metro Toronto Convention Center, Hamilton Military Museum and Assess Abilities Veterans' lunch at the Oakville Convention Center.

Mike Vencel RCN
Director of Education



Mike Vencel & Ron Kirk – True Patriot Dinner

Important Notice regarding membership dues renewal dates

The Board of Directors have decided to change all membership dues renewal dates to expire on December 31st for all members in the future. Therefore the 2016 annualized membership dues will be adjusted by the number of months remaining to Dec 2016. For any outstanding dues payments paid from now until December 2015, your new expiry date will be December 2016. If your renewal date is in February 2016, you would be paying 11/12ths of the annual dues for 2016. If your membership expires in June you would pay 6/12ths and so on. If you have any questions please contact **Sandy Kenyon** at s.kenyon@sympatico.ca or 416 460-6470.

The Perfect *Gift*



See Page 11 for Membership Gift Options

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The High-Tech Toilet that Sank a Submarine - U-1206's crew scuttled the German vessel after a potty mishap

Elliot Carter *War is Boring*

September 17, 2015

By World War II standards, the German Type VIIC submarine was an advanced hunter of the seas, but one unlucky vessel of its class, U-1206, sank during its maiden combat voyage after its captain used its high-tech toilet improperly.

Yes, this really happened and was an unexpected and tragic consequence of a real naval engineering problem.

For years, crafty German engineers had been busy developing what they thought was the next generation of undersea plumbing. While Allied subs piped their sewage into onboard septic tanks, German U-boats saved precious weight and space by discharging waste directly into the sea, but pulling off this latter operation posed unique challenges. The system only worked when the submarine was near the surface where the water pressure was low. One can only imagine the unpleasant workarounds forced upon the crew when boats had to stay submerged for prolonged periods.

As the war — and Allied anti-submarine technology — progressed, submarines were increasingly dead meat in shallow water or on the surface, but by 1945, Germany's toilet technology had matured.

As the war — and Allied anti-submarine technology — progressed, submarines were increasingly dead meat in shallow water or on the surface, but by 1945, Germany's toilet technology had matured.

Germany's top minds had produced a newfangled “deepwater high-pressure toilet” which allowed them to flush while submerged deep below the waves. Advanced as it was, the toilet was extremely complicated. First, it directed human waste through a series of chambers to a pressurized airlock. The contraption then blasted it into the sea with compressed air, sort of like a poop torpedo. A specialist on each submarine received training on proper toilet operating procedures. There was an exact order of opening and closing valves to ensure the system flowed in the correct direction. Now meet U-1206 and its proud 27-year-old captain, Karl-Adolf Schlitt. On April 14, 1945, Schlitt and his submarine were eight days into their first combat patrol of the war. The submarine lurked 200 feet beneath the surface of the North Sea when Schlitt decided that he could figure the toilet out himself.



U-1206. (Photo via *The Scotsman*)

But Schlitt was not properly trained as a toilet specialist. After calling an engineer to help, the engineer turned a wrong valve and accidentally unleashed a torrent of sewage and seawater back into the sub. The situation escalated quickly. The unpleasant liquid filled the toilet compartment and began to stream down onto the submarine's giant internal batteries — located directly beneath the bathroom — which reacted chemically and began producing chlorine gas. As the poisonous gas filled the submarine, Schlitt frantically ordered the boat to the surface. The crew blew the ballast tanks and fired their torpedoes in an effort to improve the flooded vessel's buoyancy.

It got worse when the submarine reached the surface. “At this point in time, British planes and patrols discovered us,” Schlitt wrote in his official account. After taking damage from an air attack, the only option was to scuttle the sub and order the sailors overboard.

“The crew reached the Scottish coast in rubber dinghies,” Schlitt added. “In the attempt to negotiate the steep coast in heavy seas, three crewmembers tragically died. Several men were taken onboard a British sloop. The dead were Hans Berkhauer, Karl Koren, and Emil Kupper.” Schlitt survived the war and died in 2009. U-1206 rests on the bottom of the North Sea to this day.

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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 HMCS 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 HMCS 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 HMCS 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.

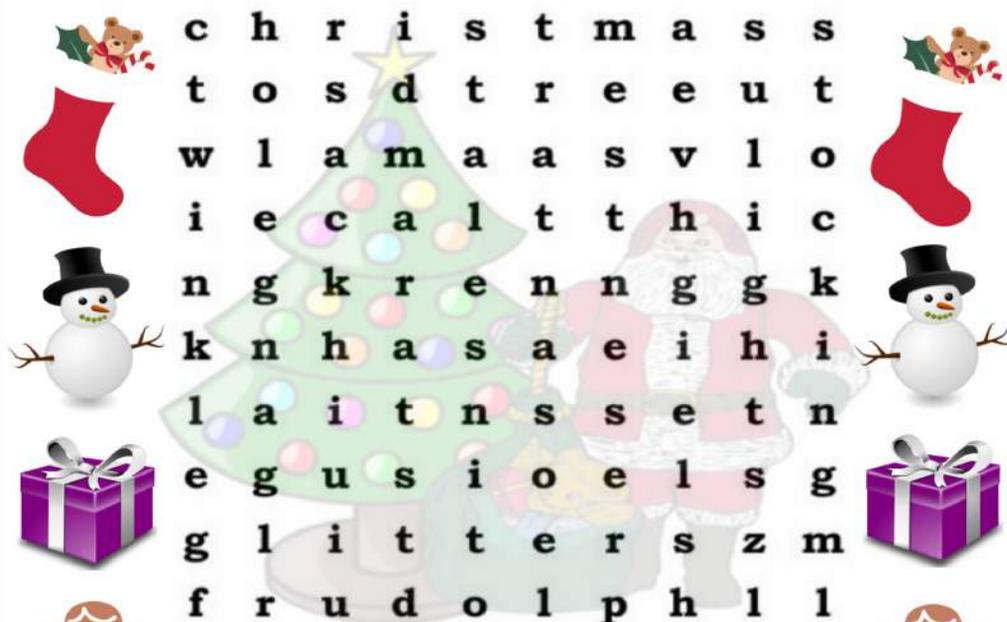
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Merry Christmas Word Search

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.



tinsel
sack
lights
Rudolph
glitter
angel
stocking

presents
Santa
tree
sleigh
Christmas
twinkle
star

