

War Memories across Canada Conversation Kit:

April 1944 HMCS Haida National Historic Site Hamilton, Ontario



Parcs Canada - Parks Canada

HMCS Haida is one of 27 Tribal class ships built for the British, Canadian, and Australian navies in the 1930s and 1940s. It is the only one that survives today. The ship is now the focal point of Parks Canada's HMCS Haida National Historic site in Hamilton, Ontario.

Discussion Questions:

The preservation of *HMCS Haida* is one way to commemorate military personnel who served at sea. What do you think is significant about this ship? Do you think there are any similarities or differences between how army, navy and air force personnel events are commemorated?

Having watched the story, you will have learned about the sinking of HMCS Athabaskan. Captain Harry DeWolf was faced with a moral dilemma: should he stay to save those in the water, or save his ship? What decision would you make?

Activities:

Research one of the following topics:

- one of the 26 Tribal class destroyers of the Second World War.
- What was the importance of Royal Canadian Navy during the war?
- What is the importance of the RCN today?

There are several naval museums across the country—not just on the coasts - as Canadians from across the country signed up to serve in the navy. Locate the naval museum nearest you and learn the stories that are significant to your community.

For more stories about the RCN, watch the two other vignettes in the *War Memories across Canada* documentary series: *The Longest Battle* and *One Name on the Memorial*.

The HMCS Haida National Historic Site has a [Facebook page](#). Why not join and keep up-to-date on the venue's activities and stories?



HMCS Haida's motor cutter
Bibliothèque et Archives Canada – Library and Archives
Canada/PA-152033

Resources:

Websites

Canada's Naval History – Canadian War Museum
<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/navy/home-e.aspx>
Available in [French](#).

Friends of the HMCS Haida
<http://www.hmcshaida.com/>

HMCS Haida National Historic Site – Parks Canada
<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/haida/index.aspx>
Available in [French](#).

Naval Museum of Halifax
<http://psphalifax.ca/marcommuseum/>

Naval Museum of Quebec
<http://navalmuseumofquebec.com/>
Available in [French](#).

The Canadian Navy - 'Ready Aye Ready!' – Veterans Affairs Canada
<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/canadian-armed-forces/royal-canadian-navy>
Available in [French](#).

Videos

Action Stations, directed by Joris Ivens. National Film Board, 1943.
https://www.nfb.ca/film/action_stations/

Atlantic Patrol, directed by Stuart Legg. National Film Board, 1940.
https://www.nfb.ca/film/atlantic_patrol/

HMCS Haida: In a Class of Her Own. Parks Canada, 2009.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEIpQXgDIM>

Books

All the ship's men: the HMCS Athabaskan's untold stories, by Sherry Pringle. Vanwell, 2010.

HMCS Haida: battle ensign flying, by Barry Gough. Vanwell, 2001.

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