

HMCS HAIDA

- HMCS Haida served as a fleet destroyer and destroyer escort in the Royal Canadian Navy between 1943 and 1963 and became known as Canada's 'fightingest ship'.
- In 1963, upon receiving news of the ship's decommissioning, a group of concerned Toronto civilians and retired Naval officers successfully campaigned to preserve the ship with the intent to pass a greater appreciation of Canada's navy to the general public.
- Since 2003, Parks Canada has been the proud custodian of HMCS Haida at the Hamilton Waterfront. The Friends of HMCS Haida and the Royal Canadian Navy make vital contributions to the promotion and interpretation of the ship.

80th Anniversary Celebrations

- In 2023, we are honouring the ship's 80-year history as both Canada's most famous fighting vessel and a uniquely important National Historic Site commemorating Canada's naval history. We are also celebrating the 20th anniversary of HMCS Haida coming to the Hamilton Waterfront.
- Look forward to special events throughout the operating season, new heritage programming offered daily, and a Birthday Weekend like no other on August 26 & 27, 2023.

Opening Hours

- From May 24th through September 3rd, the ship and the jetty will be open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm.
- New this year, enjoy an evening aboard with extended hours every Thursday, July 6 – August 31. The ship and the jetty will be open 10AM to 8PM.
- From September 4 to September 24th, the ship and the jetty will be open Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm.
- **Important note:** In cases of extreme heat and weather, the hours of operation are subject to change. Plan ahead and visit HMCS Haida's website at www.pc.gc.ca/haida or Facebook page at facebook.com/HaidaNHS
- **Important note:** Ticket sales end at 4:15 pm so be sure to leave plenty of time to explore the ship when you visit.

What is there to do daily at HMCS Haida?

In true naval tradition, start your visit at the Parks Canada guardhouse where our team will get you set with everything you need for a fantastic experience.

- Friendly interpreters and naval veterans will share riveting stories of battle and of their lives onboard the "fightingest ship" in the Royal Canadian Navy.
- Interpretive panels on the jetty tell of the ship's vital role in the Second World War, the Korean War and the Cold War. It's no wonder HMCS Haida is the flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy!

Visitors should check HMCS Haida's website and Facebook for updates and the most current information:

- www.parkscanada.gc.ca/haida
- [HMCS Haida National Historic Site | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HaidaNHS)

Historical Importance

The jewel of Hamilton's waterfront, HMCS Haida is a national historic site administered by Parks Canada, where visitors can immerse themselves in Canada's remarkable naval history.

HMCS Haida is the world's last remaining Tribal-class Destroyer. As one of the few remaining ships that witnessed historic events during the Second World War, the vessel offers Canadians a unique opportunity to experience our nation's great history, and to commemorate Canada's naval role in world-changing events.

During the Second World War, HMCS Haida joined the Arctic convoys, escorting merchant ships on the Murmansk Run to the Soviet Union. The vessel patrolled the English Channel as part of preparations for D-Day and played an active role in the Allied invasion of Normandy. HMCS Haida subsequently served in the Korean War and the Cold War before being retired from active service in 1963, earning the well-deserved moniker "The Fightingest Ship" of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Unlike so many of the Tribal-class destroyers, the ship was spared from the scrapyard through the determination of private citizens and opened as a museum ship. HMCS Haida was transferred to Parks Canada and underwent extensive restoration before opening to the public at Pier 8 on Hamilton's waterfront.

Now on the eve of the ship's 80th year, HMCS Haida serves as a reminder of the sacrifice, courage and tenacity of the Royal Canadian Navy.

HMCS Haida at a glance

- Length: 114.5 m Width: 11.4 m
- Engines: Two steam turbines with 44,000 horsepower
- Maximum speed: 36.5 knots
- Empty weight: 1,927 tons
- The only surviving Tribal-class destroyer of 27 vessels constructed between 1937-1945 for the Royal Canadian Navy, the Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy.
 - 13 were sunk during the Second World War, 13 were scrapped after the war
 - HMCS Haida is the only one left, anywhere in the world
- The ship has been on display in Hamilton since Aug. 30, 2003 at Pier 9, 658 Catharine St N.
- Commissioned in Aug. 1943
- Decommissioned Oct. 1963
- In 20 years of service, HMCS Haida steamed 688,534.25 nautical miles, the equivalent of 27 times around the world
- Served in the Second World War, Korean War and Cold War
- Known as the "fightingest ship in the Royal Canadian Navy"
- Ceremonial flagship of the Royal Canadian Navy
- Designated a national historic site in 1984 because of the ship's role in naval combat, and because the ship is the last of the Tribal class destroyers.