

Mr. Speaker:

This year the Royal Canadian Navy proudly celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With Remembrance Day just a month away, my family and I yesterday visited one of our National Historic Sites—the HMCS *Haida*.

The *Haida*, a Tribal Class destroyer, was commissioned into the Royal Canadian Navy in 1943, operating through the remainder of the Second World War.

Following a post-war refit, the *Haida* continued in service through the Korean War and Cold War, until her decommissioning in 1963. Today the *Haida* is stationed at Pier 9 in Hamilton Harbour.

Our October 3<sup>rd</sup> visit was a fascinating journey through our nation's history, made even more enlightening thanks to Ray Pearse, who accompanied us.

Ray, having served on the *Haida* in the late 1950s, offered his compelling, firsthand account of life aboard this Canadian warship.

Ray Pearse continues to serve today as President of the Fergus Legion.

My late father-in-law, Ted McCabe, served in the Royal Canadian Navy during World War 2. His story, like that of Mr. Pearse, was one of youthful courage, achievement, and service to country.

I want to thank Ray for taking us on the tour of the *Haida*, for his continuing leadership at the Legion, and all other Legion members for their important work.

Through their service, they remind us of those who travelled to distant lands, far from their families, on our behalf—and, indeed, of those who do so today.