

## Patron

His Excellency The Right Honourable  
David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.  
Governor General of Canada



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Son Excellence le très honorable  
David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.  
Gouverneur général du Canada

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*The Hon. John Fraser, P.C., O.C., O.B.C., C.D., Q.C.*  
*The Hon. Peter Milliken, P.C., O.C.*  
*The Hon. Bill Blaikie, P.C.*  
*The Hon. Perrin Beatty, P.C.*  
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*Gen. John de Chastelain, C.C., C.M.M., C.D., C.H.*

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*L'hon. Bill Blaikie, C.P.*  
*L'hon. Perrin Beatty, C.P.*  
*L'hon. Bill Graham, C.P., c.r.*  
*Le Gén. John de Chastelain, C.C., C.M.M., C.D., C.H.*

27 May 2015

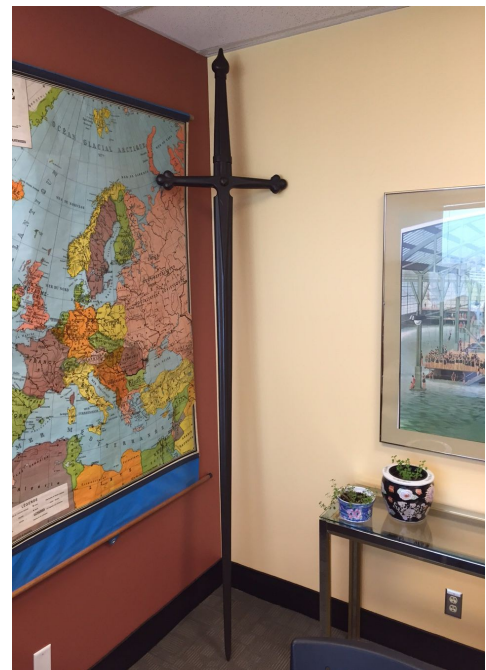
Dear Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. Here is a short report on the recent progress of our Hill 70 team. If you want more details on any issue please don't hesitate to call me. It has been a very busy twelve months:

- a. on 18 June, entered into a land use agreement with the City of Loos-en-Gohelle;
- b. on 30 October, approved a land survey of the site;
- c. on 6 November, approved a Geotech survey of the site;
- d. on 27 November, approved the hiring of a social media and marketing individual;
- e. on 3 December, hired a lawyer to register an Association (Le mémorial de la cote 70) as a not-for-profit entity in France. This will permit us to avoid paying as much as \$1Million in Value Added Tax. Every dollar must go to making a real contribution.

Our Paris Engineers and Architects from Turnbull and Castro corporations have now instituted a design freeze with no further changes contemplated. They are in frequent contact with the City planning department and applications for construction permits are now underway. Their brief on the monument plan was very well received by the citizenry and many of the usual administrative delays are thankfully being avoided.

It has always been our plan to incorporate a traditional 8' long Sword reversed on the Obelisk, upside-down in mourning, as a cross of sacrifice. A great friend of the project, who wishes to remain anonymous, helped us to source one and it is now in Thady's office in Ottawa; he was happy to tell our Paris engineers and architects Max, Paul, and Eddie that we had commenced the procurement phase with the Sword of Sacrifice under budget and ahead of schedule! I am just not sure how he is going to get it into his carry on luggage to France!



*Thady's new letter opener*

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that our own Colonel Howard Coombs was awarded the Order of Military Merit in March. He has been working hard on governmental relations for our Project and his skills are greatly appreciated. Well Done Howard!

It was proposed by the Army planners and it is our plan to leverage the 9 April 2017 celebrations in Vimy to hold our own parade and ceremony at Loos on 8 April using the same bands, guards of honour, and security personnel. The Chief of Defence Staff and I discussed this plan in early May and he was most supportive. We are scheduled to see him formally on 6 July and to ensure his successor is also a fan of the project.

In February a friend-raising team including Sean Murray, General John de Chastelain, and Bill Neill presented to the Irish Ambassador in Ottawa, Dr Ray Bassett. He was very supportive of our Project and is pursuing it with the Government of Ireland. There were two Canadians of Irish descent who won Victoria Crosses at Hill 70, one a protestant from the North and the other a catholic from the South. It would be most appropriate to have them highlighted at the monument and in the Educational Material.

A number of the Hill 70 team had the chance to attend the Canadian Battlefield Foundation Dinner at the War Museum last month. It was a stellar affair presided over by their Patron (and our Honorary Advisor) The Chief Justice of the Supreme court Beverly McLachlin, and hosted by old friend LGen Marc Lessard. With the guidance of their past President, MGen (ret'd) Clive Addy, the MC gave the Hill 70 table an absolutely glowing introduction and described how their own objectives and ours coincide. The CBF organisation had been created by Hamilton Southam, father of our own friend-raiser, Henrietta, who was in attendance.



*His Excellency Dr. Ray Bassett and our own Sheila O'Gorman and Henrietta Southam*

Also this month the editor of our Battle for Hill 70 Anthology, Dr Doug Delaney, had a working session here at Royal Military College for all of the chapter authors. I am proud to say Doug has assembled a cast of Canada's finest military historians to contribute. It was a chance for them to share their work done to date, and to ensure the necessary continuity between chapters of the Book. The University of British Columbia has agreed to publish it and we hope to have it out in 2016 as part of the media awareness campaign for the Grand Opening.

There is a general outpouring of support from almost all quarters. In the last newsletter I mentioned that Dr James Finan, an exceptionally talented bagpiper and composer, had written a tune called the Battle for Hill 70. It has now been recorded by Doug Green and some select members of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment Pipes and Drums and it will be available on our new website by mid-June. (No pressure there, Warren! It is a very beautiful site!)

In the same vein, another volunteer from the Directorate of History and Heritage, Ron Roach, has created a brand-new Tartan and had it registered by the 'Keeper of the Scottish Register of Tartans'.

There is a considerable amount of history and significance in the choice of colours:

Each Division in the Canadian Corps is represented: Red, Blue, French Grey, or Green.  
Red: 1st Cdn Div / Sacrifice  
Blue: 2nd Cdn Div  
French Grey: 3rd Cdn Div / The grey skies  
Green: 4th Cdn Div / The fields of combat  
White: Birth of a Nation / The chalk ground  
Black: Mourning for the lost / The coal fields of Lens  
Red and White: Canada / Infantry Corps  
Red and Blue: Innovative use of Artillery and Engineers



I believe the design is quite beautiful and we have already had several requests for kilts, trews, golf shirts and the like made with the Hill 70 Tartan

M. Alexandre Vulic of the French Embassy has been extraordinary helpful to us for the past two years. He has assisted in the TVA taxation exemption status, in the entry of Canadian building materials into France, and in creating a sound relationship with the local Governments in Loos-en Gohelle. His staff are now arranging for us to meet the new French ambassador on 10 June.

All of our volunteers continue to work pro-Bono. We all pay for our own administration, which really impresses donors. In order to fund all these activities we estimate that the project needs over \$12,000,000 and at the time of writing we have cash and donation pledges for more than one quarter of that amount. Rob Baxter has been exceptionally busy developing new friends and supporters of the project and many more approaches are planned for the next quarter. His team of eminent Canadians are seeing a new donor nearly every week, and I am happy to report the responses are always positive. New cheques and pledges for over \$1.6 Million more have been received in the past month or are expected in shortly.

It goes without saying that your advice and assistance continue to be critical to the success of the project and I cannot thank you enough. We'll be in touch again soon.

Sincerely,



Mark Hutchings  
Chairman, Hill 70 Memorial Project