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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

porte-parole nationale

Col. Chris Hadfield, O.C., O.Ont. C.S.M., C.D.

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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.

19 December 2016

Dear Friends of Hill 70!

It has been a busy and successful autumn! And there is some great news to share about our project.

Susan Everett's team of educators has completed the education kit and 3,400 are now in the process of being shipped to high schools across Canada. (both in French and English). We have had wonderful cooperation from Allen Graphics, the printer who has been shipping these for us from his own warehouse floor.

The kits have been presented at the education conferences that we attended in Ottawa, Vancouver and Winnipeg and they were very well received. There was a lot of enthusiasm about the kit from the teachers attending the conferences and two unexpected outcomes...an interview with Canada's History is planned and we expect an invitation to their annual history awards dinner. We are hoping that the professional product created by Susan's team will continue to be distributed for use in schools well into the future.



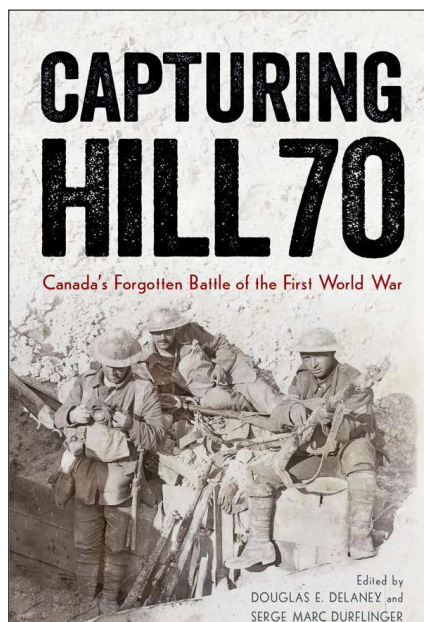
photo credit: Richard Lawrence

*Re-enactors Connor Adsett and Jeff Clement
who assisted with our public launch in Ottawa
on 15 August 2016.*

Media. We went public in August on the 99th anniversary of the Battle of Hill 70, and since then there have been many excellent articles, interviews, and publications come out about Hill 70. We got a wonderful story on CTV, which was carried nationally. Radio Canada International ran a very complementary story. All these are available through links from our website: www.hill70.ca. There have been articles in The National Post, The Whig Standard, the Times Colonist, The Ottawa Citizen and many more. One very significant event was when Philip Crawley, the publisher of the Globe and Mail agreed to become our media partner for print. Since then a senior correspondent, Roy MacGregor was assigned to create a feature article, which was given a full page on Remembrance Day. Not to be outdone, Shaw media has agreed to become our electronic media partner and is currently examining a multitude of ways in which they can ensure 'Canada's Forgotten Victory' is forgotten no more.

Book-launches. Three book-launches were conducted for Capturing Hill 70: at the War Museum in Ottawa, at the RCMI in Toronto and at the RMC in Kingston. Each successfully attracted the attention of the media and increased sales of Capturing Hill 70. There are a total of five new books for the Project. All the books created for the Education Package have been requested for distribution in the Canadian War Museum book store, and they have asked for copies of the education kit so that they might be included in their own handout "supply line" which is being distributed to schools

At the moment our latest book, Capturing Hill 70, written by nine of Canada's foremost historians has some great statistics on Amazon:



Product Details

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: UBC Press (Oct. 1 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0774833599

ISBN-13: 978-0774833592

Product Dimensions: 2.5 x 16.5 x 23.5 cm

Shipping Weight: 662 g

Average Customer Review: Be the first to Review this item

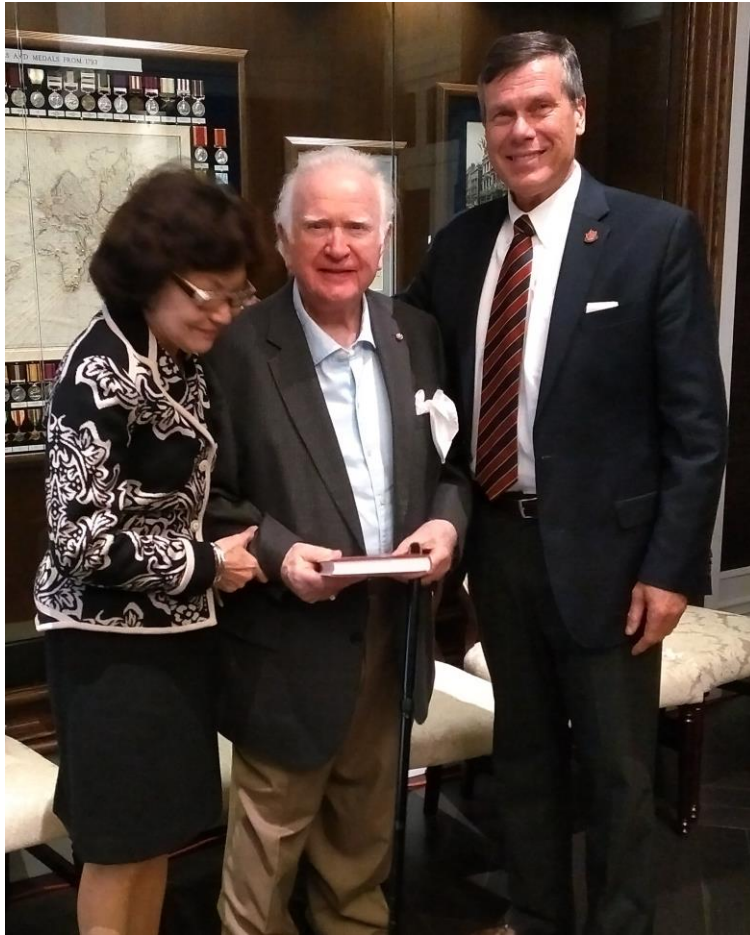
Amazon Bestsellers Rank: #2,216 in Books ([See Top 100 in Books](#))

[#1 in Books](#) > [History](#) > [Americas](#) > [Canada](#) > [20th Century](#)

[#1 in Books](#) > [History](#) > [Canada](#) > [20th Century](#)

[#4 in Books](#) > [History](#) > [Military](#) > [Canada](#)

Number One in two categories is a nice place to be!!



Founding Donors Lorna and Sir Cyril Woods in Toronto with their new copy of Capturing Hill 70.



"Ukrainian Credit Union Director Oleh Marianchuk (with wife Vicki) presents a donation of \$25,000 which will be used to help fund the Filip Konowal Walk at the Hill 70 Memorial".

The Hill 70 Memorial, PO Box 73 Kingston Main, Kingston, ON K7L 4V6, (613) 546 4567, www.hill70.ca

Our fall fundraising activities were capped by an extraordinary commitment from the Ukrainian Canadian Community to fund the principal walkway at the memorial site, which will be named in honour Filip Konowal, a Ukrainian born Canadian and the only Eastern European ever to be awarded the Victoria Cross. The Konowal Walk will form the main axis of the memorial site, linking the front gate with the main amphitheater. Made possible by gifts both large and small, including an outstanding \$1 million pledge by James Temerty, The Chairman of Northland Power. We owe a special word of thanks Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk of the Royal Military College here in Kingston, Eugene Cholkan, Alexandra Chyczij and Lesya Winnicki in Toronto, without whose efforts this special initiative could simply not have been undertaken."



*Here is the team of dedicated people who helped create the Ukrainian commitment to Hill70:
(left to right) Lesya Winnicki, Alexandra Chyczij, Professor Lubomyr Luciuk and Eugene Cholkan, who all helped with the superb turnout at the RCMi reception.*

Opening ceremonies. The Aim of the April 2017 event is to have our Patron, the Governor General, officially open the site and gain all the use of DND resources which NDHQ has so generously offered. This will effectively get the media to publicise the new Memorial. There is a team of Hill 70 folks (led by John Roderick and Howard Coombs) working on this diligently and they have sent our requirements to a French event management company that is used by our own Veterans Affairs for such events.

The Departments of Defence and Veterans Affairs had representatives in Europe last month liaising with the City to determine details of the opening ceremony. We have been getting super support from the staff of CJOC and we are most grateful.

There are several factors that are outside our control – a second occupation of the site by "travellers" (Gypsies) and the possible discovery and disposal of unexploded ordnance by the contractor. These factors will combine to cause a possible delay in the building schedule. The result is that the ground

may not be suitable for standing on due to its recent planting. Therefore, we are keeping the event numbers in April EXCEEDINGLY SMALL. We are going to have to close this event to the public accordingly and this is proving as difficult as organising a *small* wedding.

Because we have had to reduce the scale of our April dedication activities, we now intend to put major emphasis on our mid Aug 2017 Hill 70 Battle 100th Anniversary activities. Participation by Cdn Forces personnel who may be in Europe on other commemorative activities at that time have been welcomed. It is our intention to invite the Chief of Defence Staff and the Army Commander to preside at this event.

Construction!



*Pictured above is the site of the Obelisk with its piles sunk through a concrete footing!
It is finally happening!!*

In October, we signed the contract with the French construction company **Eiffage** to build our Memorial Park in Loos-en-Gohelle, France. They thought it prudent to conduct another study for unexploded ordnance, and indeed managed to find many metal objects, two of which were unexploded shells. The engineering Company is WSP, which is a multi-national with its head office in Canada. Project management is provided by Paul Fenton of the company Turnbull and Associates of Paris. Work is well underway and the site is entirely fenced off, and major earth-moving has begun. Several of the pathways have been taken to their new elevations and heavy gravel has been laid to support the machinery now deployed.



This photo shows the sub-floor of the amphitheatre with its underlay being installed in mid December.

We only have enough funds to do the parking lot, washrooms, main entry walk, amphitheatre and of course the Obelisk. But fundraising continues apace. Every new penny we raise now will go towards another planned component. There are requirements for more walkways, more benches, the information Kiosk, etc. Though the Government may be considering a contribution, all the funds we have raised to date are from private citizens, so we continue to hope for their support.

We are exceptionally fortunate to have a dedicated group of professionals in multiple fields (law, architecture, education, construction, project management, media, etc.) who have been working nearly full time for three years to help bring this project to fruition. And they are all working Pro Bono. It is a truly a delight to see us so close to our goal.

Many thanks for your continuing support. May you have a wonderful Christmas, and health and happiness in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Mark Hutchings,
Chairman,
The Hill 70 Project