



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Hill 70 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration and memorial project launch (August 15, 2016)

The Hill 70 Memorial Project (<http://hill70.ca>) will commemorate the 99th anniversary of Canada's Forgotten Victory on Monday August 15, 2016 by recreating, in tableau, a photograph taken at Hill 70 in 1917. The tableau will be staged at various locations in downtown Ottawa. A piper will lead the procession and will perform on location.

The event will promote the construction of a monument in Loos-en-Gohelle, France to honour Canadian Corps. This is the final WWI monument to be approved by the French government.

An education program will be rolled out in Canadian public schools this October. Five books about Hill 70, including a graphic novel, will be published that same month.

The public is encouraged to visit and join the procession, and to share photos, videos and thoughts about the event on social media using the hashtag #Hill70 (#Cote70 in French).

<b>TIME</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
<b>11:00am</b>	Depart Cartier Drill hall for Valiants Gallery ROUTE: Sidewalk westbound on Laurier, Northbound on Elgin
<b>11:15am</b>	Arrive at Valiants Gallery
<b>11:15am-11:45am</b>	Tableau and media availability at Valiants Gallery
<b>11:45pm</b>	Depart Valiants Gallery for Parliament Hill ROUTE: westbound along the north Wellington Street sidewalk
<b>12:00pm</b>	Arrive at Parliament Hill by Centennial Flame
<b>12:00pm-1:00pm</b>	Tableau and media availability at Parliament Hill by Centennial Flame
<b>1:00pm</b>	Depart Parliament Hill for Visitor Centre on Metcalfe ROUTE: southbound from Parliament Hill along Metcalfe to Visitor Centre
<b>1:10pm</b>	Parade breaks until 3:30pm
<b>1:10pm-3:30pm</b>	Media availability
<b>3:30pm</b>	Arrive Sparks Street block 2 (between Scotiabank and Metcalfe Street)
<b>3:30pm-4:00pm</b>	Tableau and media availability at Sparks Street block 2
<b>4:00pm</b>	Parade breaks until 4:50pm
<b>4:50pm</b>	Depart Sussex and George Streets for back entrance to the Bay ROUTE: George Street eastbound to the Bay
<b>5:00pm</b>	Arrive the Bay
<b>5:00pm-6:00pm</b>	Tableau and media availability near George Street entrance to Bay
<b>6:00pm</b>	Event ends

Media contact: Mark Blevis, +1-613-762-9704 ([mark.blevis@fullduplex.ca](mailto:mark.blevis@fullduplex.ca))

[Hill70.ca](http://Hill70.ca)



## THE BATTLE OF HILL 70 (CANADA'S FORGOTTEN VICTORY)

The First World War is considered by some to be Canada's war of independence, helping Canada transition "from colony to country" in the space of four years. The Battle of Hill 70 was a key stepping stone in this process. Sadly, it has been overlooked in most accounts of our national history.

The Hill 70 victory was fought by Canadians, on Canadian terms, under Canadian command for the first time as a "national army." Lt. General Arthur Currie had been ordered by the British High Command to take Lens from the Germans. He balked at their plans, suggesting, instead, the Canadians take Hill 70 overlooking the town using newly developed combat techniques.

Canadian troops captured Hill 70 in just five hours on the morning of August 15, 1917. Then they fought off 21 counterattacks over the following five days to retain this strategic position.

## THE HILL 70 MEMORIAL PROJECT

The Hill 70 Memorial project team is made up of passionate volunteers eager to embed Hill 70 in the Canadian consciousness through an education program, five new books (including a graphic novel) and a permanent monument which will be erected near the site of the battle in Loos-en-Gohelle, France.

Key project points:

- His Excellency Governor General David Johnston is our project patron
- Student Educational Kits and Teacher Classroom Guides will be introduced to 3,500 schools across Canada in October 2016
- A travelling museum is available for organizations interested in displaying it
- Ground-breaking to build the monument will take place September 2016 in Loos-en-Gohelle, France
- Monument construction will be completed April 1, 2017
- Monument dedication will be April 8, 2017 in Loos-en-Gohelle, France
- The monument park will open to the public June 2017
- The project has raised \$4.4 million and received pro bono services in excess of \$2 million
- Follow our social media accounts for historical-real-time updates about the battle

Website: <http://hill70.ca>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hill70memorial>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/hill70memorial>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/hill70memorial>

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCAAh5Ahv21Q6jUIZ3MufL0w>

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Hill70.ca



## **MEDIA AVAILABILITY**

### **Mark Hutchings, Hill 70 project Chair**

Mark Hutchings is President of Action Meals Corporation, which supplies emergency products for governments and the outdoor sports sector. His corporate experience encompasses work in both manufacturing and marketing. As an officer with the Royal Canadian Dragoons until his retirement, he had served on assignments in Europe, The Middle East, and Africa. He is the past Honorary Colonel of the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment and is a keen supporter of the Armed Forces. *Mark will be available to speak about the Hill 70 memorial project and the Battle of Hill 70 and its historical significance.*

### **Dr. Robert Engen, author**

Dr. Robert Engen is an adjunct professor in the Queen's department of history. He has taught and published widely in the field of Canadian military history, specifically on the topics of combat motivation, soldiers' behaviour in battle, and the Canadian Army during the two world wars. His first book, *Canadians Under Fire*, was based upon his Master's thesis completed at Queen's, and he has now completed two other books that are in various stages of the publication process. He is also involved in an online/blended learning course redesign initiative through the Queen's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. *Dr. Engen is available to speak about Lt. General Sir Arthur Currie, the Battle of Hill 70 and its historical significance.*

### **Blake Seward, teacher**

For over a decade, Blake Seward has been a team leader for teacher professional development study tours in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands through the War and the Canadian Experience program. *Blake is available to speak about the Hill 70 education program and teaching Canadian war history to young Canadians.*

### **Henrietta Southam, Hill 70 project**

Henrietta Southam is active in the arts community, making notable contributions as a volunteer with many local and national charities. Her great uncle, Gordon Southam, was the commander of the 40<sup>th</sup> Canadian Field Battery of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War. Her father, G. Hamilton Southam, was an officer with the Royal Artillery and the Royal Canadian Artillery during the Second World War, serving in both the Italian and Northern European theatres of operation. *Henrietta will be available for interviews in English and French on Parliament Hill (12:00pm-1:00pm).*



## **ABOUT THE PERFORMERS**

### **Connor Adsett, actor**

Connor is entering his final year in Canterbury High School drama and is extremely excited to take part in this reenactment. Although he has been exposed to directing, acting, mask and other work at Canterbury, he has never done anything quite like this. He hopes that people will walk away from knowing more about the battle of Hill 70 and about Canada's role in WWI.

### **Jeff Clement, actor**

Jeff is an Ottawa based performer entering his final year at Canterbury High School. He loves to find new and exciting ways to engage the public in the arts and history. He is very excited to have the opportunity to do both at once.

### **Edward Hutchings, piper**

Edward has keenly followed the progress of the Hill 70 project since the project was conceived by his father, Mark, and the other team members. He studied Political Science and History at the Universities of Guelph and Ottawa, and is currently completing a Bachelor of Business Administration through Laurentian University. An avid student of military history, Edward assists the Hill 70 team as a part-time translator and volunteer. He is also a bagpiper in the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment Pipes & Drums band, which performs at many of the Project's formal events and ceremonies.