THE REGIMENT and
THE HILL 70 MEMORIAL

AUGUST 2017

15-25/08/1917

The Battle of Hill 70 saw the Canadian Corps, under Canadian command for the first time, seize a critical point on the German defensive line in August 1917. On the morning of 15 August, in just under four hours, three Canadian Divisions, with a fourth in reserve, took the vital high ground, 70 metres above sea level overlooking the towns of Loos-en-Gohelle and Lens. The Corps subsequently succeeded in defending their positions against 21 counter attacks from five German Divisions over the ensuing four days. Six members of the Corps earned Victoria Crosses during the intense fighting. There was no distinguishing feature to honour those who achieved this stunning victory, save for a small monument erected in 2012 by the 48th Highlanders, perpetuating the 15th Battalion C.E.F. That was until the Hill 70 Project completed this monument, dedicated by the Project's Patron, His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, on 8 April 2017.

The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment, which perpetuates the 21st Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force that earned the battle honour Hill 70, played a significant role in bringing to fruition the primary objects of the Hill 70 Memorial, a registered Canadian and French charity:

- Design and build a monument on an appropriate site, to be maintained in perpetuity; and,
- Develop and implement an education program about the Battle of Hill 70 for use by the general Canadian population and especially for school-aged Canadian and French students

Half of the Board of Directors were serving or former Honorary Colonels of the Regiment -- Colonel Hutchings as Chairman; Colonel Cowan as Vice-Chairman; and, Honorary Colonel Jordan as Chief of Staff. All were financial contributors along with Colonel Smith and BGen (Ret'd) Beno. Colonel Woods distinguished himself as one of the three Founding-level Donors, and the first to give $1,000,000 for the cause. Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Milliken was a valued advisor to the Board of Directors.