

# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois



712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

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www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

July 2004

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### Flemings in the

### World

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### Newsletter Editor

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### Genealogy

Bev Francque

**Center for Belgian  
Culture**

**Open Wed. + Sat.  
1:00-4:00 p.m.**



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Jul 3	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Jul 3	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Jul 4	Fourth of July	
Jul 19	Board Meeting	5:30-7:30 pm
Jul 21	Belgium Independence Day	
Aug 7	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Aug 7	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Aug 16	Board Meeting	5:30-7:30 pm



At the Annual Meeting, attended by 48 members, scholarship recipients and guests, Bob VandeWiele was elected as the new president of the CBC starting August 1, 2004, the beginning of our new fiscal year. We thank outgoing president Scott Raes for his past leadership and continued contributions as Past President and Volunteer Extraordinaire.

Please inform members of the Board if you have an interest in filling one of the Committee or Board positions. You will learn it allows you input in setting the future for your organization.

Bob VandeWiele and Patrick Van Nevel introduced the three CBC scholarship recipients. The students and their families were guests of the CBC for the event. Each recipient received a \$500 check toward their college education and the congratulations of those present. Scholarship winners, in alphabetical order are:

Anthony David Crosser, Alleman High School graduate, attending University of Notre Dame.

Adam Warren Nelson, J.D. Darnall High School graduate, attending Loras College.

Jandie Sue VanWatermeulen, United Township High School graduate, attending Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida.

Thanks to **Marlene Shattuck** and **Scott Raes** for organizing and coordinating this great event.



**Consulate General in Chicago:**

On Friday June 25, 2005, Consul General Philippe De Clerck hosted a good-bye reception at The Union League Club in Chicago. The reception was attended by numerous Belgian residents in the jurisdiction. Guests of honor were His Excellency Frans van Daele, Ambassador of Belgium in the United States and the Hon. Stephane De Loecker, Consul General in New York. Consul General De Clerck touched on the long history of the Belgian representation in Chicago. Consul General De Loecker reiterated the commitment to continued service to all Belgians and Belgian interests in the jurisdiction. H.E. van Daele expressed his appreciation for all the hard work performed by the Consular Office in Chicago. He further provided a brief overview of the relations between our countries and was happy to inform the guests that those relations are good again after a period of tension over the Belgian Genocide Law and the war in Iraq.

In order to ensure a smooth transition, the staff at the Consul Office in New York has been expanded and we are also very happy to learn that Consul Veronique Siklosi, who has been serving in Chicago, has accepted a transfer to New York.

Honorary Consul Van Nevel who attended the reception with this wife Barbara, informed President Scott Raes that he was extremely grateful for the continued commitment to provide service to the Belgian population and Belgian interests in the Midwest. Such commitment was clearly evident by the Presence of Consul General and Mrs. De Loecker who came from New York and particularly, the presence of H.E. Ambassador van Daele who made it a point to be present after returning from Belgium just the day before.



**Movies in Belgium????**

To increase the number of movies produced in Belgium, and strengthen the position of the Belgian independent producer towards international partners, the Belgian "tax shelter" law of August 2002, came into effect at the start of FY 2004. The law allows Belgian companies as well as Belgian establishments of non-resident firms to invest up to 50% of pre-tax profits per year in the film industry, with a maximum investment of 500,000 Euros. Profits on the investment are tax

deductible up to 150% of the investment. The tax scheme can only finance the film production budget up to a maximum of 50%. Profits must be re-invested in Belgium within 5 years.

**Stimulating the economy.....cutting taxes..... it is a world wide issue.**

A special Ministerial Council of the Belgian Government adopted a variety of proposals aimed at stimulating the Belgian economy and increasing employment.

In the area of foreign investments, the existing "ruling" commission which issues rulings on expected tax implications of investor's intended business plans will be expanded. A new task force of high officials will monitor and assist with new foreign investments in Belgium, a database will be created to list all foreign investment, and a comprehensive investments guide (road map) for foreign investors completed.

In July 2005 a review will start of the financial effects of the reduction of the corporate tax rates introduced in 2002, including the possibility for further reductions.

Plans for small businesses include a harmonization of the pension and health insurance plans for independent professionals and self-employed with the existing systems for employees. Formalities to open a new business will be further streamlined to ensure that the average time to start up is ultimately reduced to 3 days. Taxation on electricity used by companies will be subject to an upper limit, and the formalities and the time to open new retail businesses will be reduced with greater autonomy for the local executive bodies to make decisions.

Financial opportunities for start-ups will also be increased by giving a tax credit to citizens who assist the government with the financing of loans with low fixed interest rates to new or recently started small businesses.

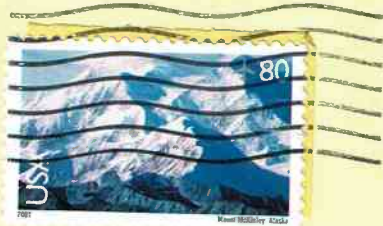


**Waffles, Waffles Who's Got the Waffles?**

The monthly Waffle Breakfast continues to be an excellent revenue source as well as an opportunity to share cultural/communal experiences. We solicit your help in any way that you can - set up, tear down, serving, kitchen duty, whatever. Anyone willing to help can email Jim DeSchinckel at [deschinc@mchsi.com](mailto:deschinc@mchsi.com) or phone Jim at 757-8911. A volunteer sheet will also be available at all waffle breakfasts from now on. Jim is more than happy to accommodate any scheduling needs or requests for a specific time, job, date or anything else to help our members help the Center.

Many thanks to the waffle volunteers: We just had a very busy period with the Memorial Day waffle breakfast and the regularly scheduled monthly event. A big THANK YOU to: Jim and Sandy DeSchinckel, Scott Raes, Marlene Shattuck, Kim Kochuyt, Mary Mortier, Marian Knock, Evelyn VanPuyvelde, Tom Taets, Art Holevoet, Helen Foote, Mary Lou Robinson, Margie Fiers, Paul Holevoet, Mike Kerckhove, Gabe and Kay Verstraete and their guests from Missouri, Ron Shappell, Bob and Betty VandeVoorde, Marty Davenport, Gary and Janet DeDecker.

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**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

**July 2004**

The **July schedule** for gift counter and host/hostess volunteers is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Saturday, July 3	Mary Rose De Coster-am	Maurine Schweitzer-pm
Wednesday, July 7	Mary Lou Andrea	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, July 10	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, July 14	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Saturday, July 17	Joanne Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Wednesday, July 21	Jon Vrombaut	Gen Vrombaut
Saturday, July 24	Barbara Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel
Wednesday, July 28	Al Van Puyvelde	Evelyn Van Puyvelde
Saturday, July 31	TBA	TBA

\*\*Please call Margaret Wadsworth at 786-5791 as soon as possible if there is a conflict or if you need to change your scheduled time.\*\*