



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265  
(309) 762-0167  
www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



August, 2009

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### Vice President

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backhome1@mchsi.com

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pvannevel@msn.com

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### Rolle Bolle Rep.

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764-8068

### Grant Chairman

Chris Vershaw

### Newsletter Editor

Dave Coopman  
d.coopman@mchsi.com

### Chaplain

Rev. Jim DeBisschop

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 1st	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
August 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
August 10th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
September 5th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
September 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
September 14th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
October 11th	Belgian Dinner	See Insert

Visit the Center for more information and to stay updated on current events.

## Schedule for Volunteers

The August schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., August 1st	Celie Donohue (AM) Joan DeClerck	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., August 5th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., August 8th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., August 12th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., August 15th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., August 19th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., August 22nd	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx
Wed., August 26th	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., August 29th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt

*Contact Margaret Wadsworth (786-5791) as soon as possible if there is a conflict with your scheduled time.*

## ROLLE BOLLE

The Western League rolle bolle games are in full swing for this season. August's competition includes: the Manlius Fun Days on the 8th; East End Bolders Club on the 16th; Geneseo Moose Lodge on the 23rd; and in Kewanee on the 30th. All games start at 1:00 pm.

**Center OPEN Wednesday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month**

## Membership Renewal Time

Memberships are one of the main income producers for the CBC. They are also the vehicle by which our mission of preserving and forwarding the Belgian heritage is accomplished. In addition to renewing your membership, why not ask someone else to join. And if you do, you can receive a certificate for a one-waffle full breakfast, good anytime. Recruit two members and receive two certificates. How hard can it be? Persuade someone else to join and have breakfast on us!

*Renewal form located on page 4.*

## What Are They Thinking

The Council of Europe is the continent's oldest international organization. It's most prominent aspect of work is the European Court on Human Rights. The Council has called on the Belgian government to make a clear statement by outlawing corporal punishment of children (spanking), including by parents, "to send a clear signal to children, parents, and the general public."

This editor wonders what kind of "signal" that will be. I received a few spankings in my day (I was a slow learner), but it certainly didn't do me any harm in the long run. Maybe there should be a signal that this Council be abolished in the name of parents' rights?

## News of the Membership

*Congratulations* are in order for: **Bob and Betty VanDeVoorde** who celebrated their 50th Anniversary on June 20th; and to Katrina Camille Repass, granddaughter of **Al and Judy DePorter** for being selected as 1st Team All-Area Soccer and 1st Attendant in the Geneseo Music Queen contest.

*Thank You* to **Jim VanThorre** for the antique maps of Belgium.

*Get Well* wishes are extended to **Bill Wadsworth** for a speedy trip home from the hospital and a quick recovery.

## Belgian Medicine Scores a First

Apnea is a condition whereby sufferers do not breathe normally during sleep because the throat closes partially or completely. When this occurs, the lack of oxygen causes sleep to be interrupted. Doctors at the University Hospital in Antwerp have scored a world first in the treatment of apnea. The hospital's new treatment stimulates a nerve that goes to the tongue and back of the throat and keeps the throat open. Doctors have already treated a first patient successfully.

*Courtesy of Belgium Today*

## No Tilting at Windmills Here

The first of six windmills, or wind generators, came into service in June off the North Sea coast at Blankenberge. The owners, C-Power, claimed a triple world record: the largest wind turbines in the world; the deepest foundations in the seabed; and the furthest installation out to sea than any other – nearly 18 miles.

The start-up of the turbines is six months later than originally scheduled, largely because of a result of weather conditions. C-Power states that the turbines will produce enough yearly electricity to provide for 600,000 people.



Because wind is a clean and constantly renewable electric source, the turbines will represent a savings in CO2 emissions of 450,000 tons per year, or the carbon equivalent of a strip of forest nine miles wide, running the entire length of the Belgian coast.

The turbines themselves, considered an eyesore in other locations, will barely be visible on the horizon. This is despite their being as high as a 45-story building. Each windmill sits atop a 3,000-ton hollow concrete foundation, shaped like a champagne bottle, filled with 3,000 tons of sand. The windmill sits in the neck of the bottle, so to speak. They are connected to Ostend by a cable almost 24 miles long, nearly nine inches thick, weighing 3,000 tons. It's buried 78 inches under the sea floor. Hampering the cable's burial was the amount of rubbish on the sea floor – everything from concrete to steel building components.

*Courtesy of Flanders Today*

Scholar Essay

With this month's Newsletter, we begin to publish, for the next four months, the heritage essays of the CBC and VanTieghem Scholarship winners.

The first essay is that of Gabrielle VanSpeybroeck. Gabrielle graduated from United Township High School in East Moline. She carried a 4.0 grade point average and was ranked first out of 408 in her class. Her activities and awards include: president of the Student Council and Key Club; member of the National Honor Society; an Illinois State Scholar; Exchange Club Scholar of the Year; captain of the varsity swimming team and State qualifier; volunteer at Trinity Hospital, Glenview Jr. High School, and the Children's Therapy Center; and founder of the Flying Fish Swim School, which gave swimming lessons to disabled children. Gabrielle has been accepted for admission at both Loyola University and the University of Chicago

Gabrielle VanSpeybroeck  
Heritage Essay

When I was growing up, I never really thought much about my heritage. About the only times that it became evident that I was Belgian were on the frequent occasions when a teacher would have a problem pronouncing my name. This would inevitably require me to repeat it correctly, as well as explain the nationality to the entire class. There were other times that the source of my heritage would come up in conversation such as if I would see a bumper sticker that read "Being Belgian is Beautiful" or when my family and I would go to watch the Belgian bike races when they were still in Moline. Still, those moments were few and far between. It wasn't until I graduated from eighth grade and my family decided to take a trip to Belgium that I really started to appreciate the history that came with being a VanSpeybroeck.



At the end of May 2005, my family and I arrived in Brussels, greeted by some friends that my parents knew who made their home in Flanders. The car ride from the airport to Lovendegem was beautiful. The quaint little villages along the canals were so picturesque. During our visit we saw Brugge, Ghent and even ate waffles on the North Sea. However, it was not until we made our way to the little town of Navele that I really became aware of my roots. It was there that we were able to see the farmhouse of my great-great-great grandfather Felix. The combination home and barn was surrounded by a new housing

development. There it sat, empty and deteriorating; soon to be torn down to make way for new homes. A distant uncle was the last of the VanSpeybroecks to live there, but he had been living in a nursing home for the last couple of years. As I looked at the home, I remembered the family stories of how my great grandfather, Omer, visited his grandfather Felix at this same home during the 1920s when he was a musician touring in Europe. My father reminded me that this was where Omer and Felix sat near a coal-fired stove, drank gin and ate apples that they sliced and warmed over the hot cast iron. I listened to the as we stood in the old home, and I became enlightened.

Since this trip and over the last four years, I have come to appreciate my Belgian roots. I have become aware, well aware, of how the Belgian immigrants influenced this area. I listened with interest as my grandfather Jim told me about how the Belgians left their former country, with little in their pockets, and started businesses, schools and churches. I learned that his grandfather started a clothing business, "Speybroeck's Clothing," which operated in downtown East Moline until 1965. He showed me a picture in a historical book of Rock Island County that showed the train station in East Moline, which was built in a Flemish style like so many of the buildings I saw during my family trip to Belgium. I even learned that at one time, this area had the second largest concentration of Belgians anywhere (besides Detroit) in America. This was an area that truly came to represent what the American dream was about. I have come to realize that being a Belgian in East Moline was and is a pretty big deal, and yes, I have come to appreciate that old bumper sticker for what it is; "Being Belgian is Beautiful."



August  
Waffle Volunteers

Waffle breakfast volunteer bakers and servers for August are Fred and Lois DeCoster, Margaret Wadsworth, and Jason and Bonnie Tanamor. Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will be please to take your money, Gene Donohue will work the kitchen, and Catherine VanHecke will supervise everyone to ensure we all go away happy. Hope to see you there!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

*August, 2009*

**Membership Renewal** (Please detach and return)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2009

Would you like to volunteer? If yes, please let us know how below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Annual Fees Enclosed (check appropriately):

Single/Family (one per household)                      \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Senior (70+) Single/Family (one per household)    \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note that complimentary memberships are automatically renewed.*