



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



March, 2017

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 4th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
March 4th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
March 13th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The March schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., March 1st	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., March 3rd	Rosemarie VanAcker	Joan DeClerck
Sat., March 4th	Barb Michalek (am)	Grace Fisher (pm)
Wed., March 8th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Fri., March 10th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., March 11th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., March 15th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., March 17th	Bev Fullmer	Georgia Slininger
Sat., March 18th	tbd	tbd
Wed., March 22nd	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Fri., March 24th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Sat., March 25th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., March 29th	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Fri., March 31st	Bob Francione	Bob Francione

*Contact Diana Slininger at (309) 792-2790
as soon as possible if there is a schedule conflict.*

Special Waffle Reminder

Bob DeClerck, 72, of St. Paris, Ohio, passed away on December 17th. He was born in Moline and was the son of Frank and Harriet DeClerck. His family chose the CBC as the only recipient of memorials to Bob.

Family members will be gathering for waffles at the March waffle breakfast to share memories, and they are inviting others to join them. Bob would love the thought of everyone donating to the preservation of the Center for Belgian Culture.

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

Isn't This Fascinating?

I'll bet you never thought about this . . . I certainly didn't. And it's something that really isn't that important in the grand scheme of things, yet it's amazing what one can run into on the internet.

While looking for interesting articles for this newsletter, I came across a video, from the Belgian public television channel VRT, about bananas. More specifically, how researchers in Belgium were creating various types of banana plants. At the end of the video, it answered a question I had never given much thought about: why bananas are curved. Here's the answer, whether you really care or not.



The banana grows on a stalk. When its flyleaf falls off, the green fruit grows upwards toward the light, instead of towards gravity. It slowly becomes more horizontal than vertical, or at least tries to do that. In that process, the banana bends upward creating that curve.

Now you know something you probably never knew, nor cared about anyway.

A Noted Passing

One of the buglers who sound the Last Post daily in Ypres has died at the age of 91. For more than 60 years, Antoon Verschoot played the music under the Menin Gate more than 15,000 times, in memory of the fallen of the First World War.



He missed the ceremony only once: held up by a blocked train crossing. In 2014, he was awarded the title of Knight of the Order of Leopold.

The Last Post began in 1928 as a final farewell. It has been sounded, every evening at 8:00 p.m., more than 30,000 times. 54,900 names of British and Commonwealth soldiers who went missing before August 16, 1917, are carved into the memorial stones. The buglers are recruited by the local fire department, so they wear a firefighter's dress uniform.

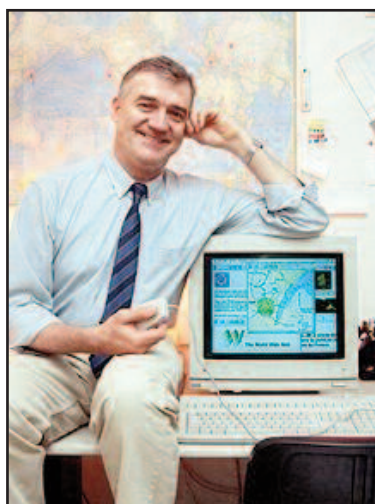
(Thanks to flandersnews.be)

Let's Learn Something

Last month we learned about Leo Baekland, the father of plastics. This month we'll look at a man who created something that most all of us use every day and couldn't go without.

Robert Cailliau was born in Tongeren, Belgium, in 1947. When he was eleven, he moved with his parents to Antwerp. Following his secondary school education, he graduated from Ghent University as a civil engineer in electrical and mechanical engineering. He also has a degree from the University of Michigan in computer, information, and control engineering. During his Belgian military service, he maintained computer programming that simulated troop movements.

In December 1974, Cailliau began working at CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research). In 1987, he became group leader of Office Computing Systems in the Data Handling Division. While in that position, fellow CERN engineer Tim Berners-Lee proposed a computer text system for access to the many forms of documenta-



tion at and related to CERN. Berners-Lee created the system between September and December of 1990, calling it the World Wide Web.

During that same time, Berners-Lee and Cailliau co-authored a proposal for funding the project. Cailliau became a key proponent of the project and developed with Nicola Pellow, the first web browser for the classic Mac operating system called MacWWW.

In collaboration with another, Cailliau started the European Commission's first web-based project for information dissemination in Europe. As a result of his work with CERN's Legal Service, CERN released the web technology into the public domain on April 30, 1993.

Today we think nothing of shopping on line, doing our banking, posting on various social media forms, or checking for something on Google. Belgian Robert Cailliau helped make this all possible.

Scholarships

Application packets for both the CBC Scholarship and the Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship have been sent to area high schools and colleges. Copies are also available at the Center, have been posted on the CBC Facebook page, and were sent to our members' emails.

The CBC offers three \$750 scholarships to graduating high school seniors, to be used towards their college education costs. The Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship offers a \$1250 scholarship to any student who has completed two years of college and is continuing on towards a college degree.

The deadline for completing either application is April 15th.

A Shining Light

The French astronaut Thomas Pesquet has released a special picture of Western Europe seen from space. One area is easy to recognize: the brightest spot, with the most light pollution, is Belgium. Some astronauts say that the "shining" Belgium is even used a reference when looking at the Earth from space. Pesquet wrote in his post that "Belgium and its lit-up motorways are easily spotted."

(From *flandersnews.be*)



MARCH WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers for the March waffle breakfast will be Angie Jennes, Millie Kale, Yvette VanDriessche, Diana Slininger, Michael DeBisschop, and Kim Kochuyt. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone enjoys their breakfast.

THANK YOU!

A sincere Thank You goes to longtime member Chet Van De Velde, for his generous monetary donation to the CBC. Your support is greatly appreciated.

A Novel Idea (no pun intended)

You might have seen this story on an early evening network or local newscast several weeks ago. It seems the Ghent city council wanted to save some money on moving books from an old city library to a new one, about 300 yards away. But how might the council do that?

The city's culture administrator decided that since the library's books were for everyone, why not put a call out for everyone to come and help start the move. The idea sparked the public's imagination: more than 850 school children signed up, as did nearly 200 adults. The volunteers formed a human chain to pass from hand-to-hand, no fewer than 1,250 books from the young people's collection from their old home to the new library.

Naturally that wasn't all the library's books. Another 200,000 were packed for moving by conventional means and joined the 150,000 already in place.

But what a "novel" idea it was, to save a little money and include the citizens to make more their place.

Not Just For Racing

Last year's terrorist attacks on the Brussels metro system and Brussels Airport have had an unexpected impact on bike use in the Belgian and Flemish capital. An annual count carried out by the not-for-profit organization Pro Velo shows a big surge in bike use in Brussels. On average last year, 278 Brussels citizens were on their bikes each and every hour. The figure is a thumping 30% up on the year and the highest figure on record.

In May, two months after the attacks, bike usage was up 50%. By November, the figure had even risen to 52% up from the previous year. It's especially along the route of the metro line targeted in the attack that more bikes were registered.

Men (65%) are more enthusiastic cyclists than women (34%), though the share of women is up from 30% in 2015.

(From *flandersnews.be*)

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Remains Discovered

The remains of three Belgian soldiers who perished in the Great War have been recovered in Kaaskerke, near Diksmuide in West Flanders. A similar finding was made near Diksmuide in June, but discoveries of missing Belgian soldiers remain exceptional; the previous one of its kind goes back to 1952.

The remains were unearthed at a site covering nearly 12 acres was being prepared for a new building project. An earlier dig had revealed that three Belgian soldiers laid buried underground.

The archaeologists also discovered several buttons that served as a clue to determine that two of the soldiers belonged to the 11th Line Regiment. A fourth soldier, a Frenchman, was also found. His "grave" had been seriously damaged by impact from a grenade.

Archaeologists are almost certain that the soldiers died in the first battle of the Yser River between October 18 and November 11, 1914. During that battle, the sluices that are part of the polder west of the river between Nieuwport and Diksmuide were flooded with seawater to provide an obstacle to the advancing German Army and keep westernmost Belgium safe from German occupation.

The fact that a Frenchman was found, confirms the presumption of time of death, as the French and Belgians were fighting side by side at the Yser River battle.

(Thanks to *flandersnews.be*)

