



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



July, 2020

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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## Center Closed for Safety

Once again, there will be no waffle breakfast, no meeting of the Lacemakers, and the Center will remain closed in July. There may be some changes coming in August, depending upon the Governor's phased openings and what guidelines will be in place. Continue to stay safe!

### *From Honorary Consul Van Nevel*

As the Center's Birdies chairperson, I'd like to thank the generous supporters of the Birdies for Charity initiative, which funds our annual scholarships. We all regret that the Deere Classic will not take place this year, because of the Covid-19 virus. However, we are delighted that the Birdies program remains in place and that all donations will be augmented by a 5% bonus funded by the Birdies for Charity Foundation.

If you have pledged, sent checks, or have made an online payment directly to the Birdies website, we Thank You! If you haven't yet pledged or donated, you can still access the website, [birdiesforcharity.com/donate](http://birdiesforcharity.com/donate) and make your pledge to "Center for Belgian Culture." Our Birdies number in 925.

Over the past 20 years, we have awarded scholarships to students who provided us personal and touching stories about their heritage. Reading though those essays, I have been touched by the courage of those early immigrants who endured the hardships, overcame the war years, and provided a better life for their offspring. Board members and volunteers at the Center work hard to keep the Belgian heritage alive and prominent in the Quad Cities. Our membership is a testimony of who wants to keep the history of Belgian immigration alive. I am calling out to those past applicants and recipients . . . WHERE ARE YOU? WHERE IS OUR YOUNGER GENERATION? A few of the recipients have maintained membership, but we are missing many of you! If you have a family member who has been a scholarship recipient and has not seen our requests for feedback, please urge them to contact us so we can keep those stories they so eloquently recounted, alive.

Finally, we truly appreciate the generosity of those who donated a membership or paid their annual membership early! That was especially welcomed as we face a cash crunch without being able to have our monthly waffle breakfasts.

**OPEN Wednesday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month**

## Welcome New Members



Thanks to HC Patrick Van Nevel’s suggestion, six CBC members presented six new memberships to the Center. These new memberships are good for fiscal year 2020 and 2021. We welcome these new members and those who gave them: **Stacy Sevenant Kelly**, donated by Rebecca Vermeire-Biting; **Al and Maggie Sovanski**, by Linda and Art VanHecke; **Donn Rudd**, by Cory Lenger; **Catherine Viren**, by Deacon Greg Lievens; **Jason and Sonia Francque**, by Gary Francque; and **Jack Moore**, by Jerry Moore.

## Renewal Time

You’ll note the form on page 4 of this newsletter that it’s time to renew your membership. For the recent new members, members who have renewed early, and those who have paid ahead, you can disregard this. Those whose memberships are due, please do so in the very near future. You might even consider recruiting another new member. We certainly welcome new members!

## Professor T Returns

Tired of binge-viewing or watching reruns? A new season of Professor T began June 24th and will air every Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. on WQPT-TV until September 26th. Eccentric criminal psychologist Professor T has a brilliant mind, but also has several disorders that make him complex and often difficult and unpredictable. He and his trusted colleagues form a high-powered team that helps the Antwerp Homicide Department. The soundtrack is in Flemish with English subtitles. Plus you’ll see scenes of Antwerp!

## An Interesting Study

Until they are 10, children are happiest playing outside. From the age of 11, the majority of children in Flanders have their own smartphone, and it becomes their favorite activity. This is one of the findings of the five-year survey by Flemish broadcaster VRT. It questioned more than 1,000 children aged from two to 15 and their parents to learn about their experience of technology and the media. Children use their parents’ smartphones and tablets from a very young age, but the biggest change takes place when they go to secondary school.

Three-quarters of 11 and 12-year-olds say they have their own smartphone and that it plays an important role in their life. By the age of 13 or 14, most every child has their own smartphone. Among 13 to 15-year-olds, Snapchat, Instagram, and YouTube have a very prominent place in their lives. Instagram and Snapchat are the most popular among teens, with YouTube a hit among all ages.

For children under 10, playing is their most popular pastime, whether it be board games, playing outside, or with toys. From age 11, most have a phone and say they most enjoy watching films on YouTube or using social media. Older children list playing outside among their favorite activities, mostly in the form of organized sports or groups like scouting.

(From *FlandersToday*)

## Next Month

Longtime readers of this newsletter know that this editor enjoys local history. And you also know that I’ve been searching for early photos and information on the Olde Towne area. While doing some recent researching, I ran across two articles from the early 1950s relating to rolle bolle. After reading through them, I discovered they contained some interesting history that I will share with you next month. Did you know the letter “g” is hard to pronounce in Flemish?



## Living Large

Some of you may not know that Antwerp is one of the largest and busiest trans-shipment ports to Europe. Material from across the globe arrives at Antwerp to be broken down and placed on smaller ships for delivery to other countries and inland. Early in June, one of the largest cargo deliveries ever to arrive in one piece entered Antwerp's harbor. But it wasn't going far.

Called a propylene splitter, it was ordered by a chemical company located at the harbor as part of an expansion project. The giant column will be used to separate propylene gas from liquids. The gas is used by the petrochemical industry in a variety of products.

The column weighed 3.2 million pounds, was 33' wide and 344' long. The column will be fitted with insulation, pipes, platforms, and ladders before it is stood upright.

The Antwerp port also recently welcomed the largest container ship in the world. The South Korean ship, the HMM Algeciras, can carry 23,964 cargo containers. The ship is 1,312' long, 200' wide and has a crew of 23.

(From *FlandersToday*)



## Still Being Found

I was recently watching a documentary on World War II that mentioned the number of artillery shells used in an early battle that turned out to be duds. It reminded me of an article that I had written about a year and a half ago about ammunition from WW I. Old war ammunition is still being found every day in West Flanders. There is no telling how many shells there may be, still lying buried in the Westhoek area, which saw some of the fiercest fighting of the war. And that battle lasted for years.

The Belgian army set up a bomb disposal unit in the area, but an explosion in 2012 put the installation out of commission. In 2018, a new bomb disposal installation was opened in Poelkapelle, and a backlog of 5,000 pieces of old, unexploded ammunition was destroyed. The ammunition included conventional and chemical shells that contained mustard gas or phosgene gas. The chemical shells were used by British, French, or German troops during the Great War.

Farmers or members of the public are still unearthing thousands of old explosives that may still be dangerous. In 2019, the bomb disposal unit received over 3,000 calls and had

to identify over 8,000 artillery pieces. Of those, around 800 turned out to contain toxic liquid substances.

While the unexploded shells continue to be uncovered and disarmed, the biggest problem for the bomb disposal unit is that the annual numbers of artillery found is not going down.

One has to wonder . . . exactly how many shells are still out there?



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**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

*July, 2020*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2020

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.*

