

“French Connection Day” Returns to Cantigny Park on August 12!

WHEATON, IL, August 2, 2012 — Cantigny Park will host its annual French Connection Day on Sunday, August 12, from 9 am to 3 pm. The popular free-admission festival debuted in 2008.

The French theme commemorates an important chapter in the life of Robert R. McCormick, Cantigny’s benefactor. In 1918, at age 37, Colonel McCormick commanded an artillery unit in the Battle of Cantigny in France as a member of the U.S. Army’s First Division. It was America’s first significant victory in World War I. Upon returning to Wheaton, the Colonel renamed his estate after the tiny village in France that he and his fellow soldiers had liberated from German occupation.

In his will, McCormick established Cantigny “as a public park and museum for the recreation, instruction and welfare of the people of the State of Illinois.” The 500-acre estate was his gift to the community.

French Connection Day will be another opportunity for families to enjoy the Colonel’s extraordinary gift. Attractions and activities at Cantigny will include:

- French Open Air Market presented by Bensidoun
- French music by “Traveler’s Dream”
- Wine tasting and French food at *Le Jardin* restaurant
- French yard game pétanque (courtesy of Chicago Pétanque Club)
- French street performers
- Kids’ art project and storytime with Madeline
- 23-foot Eiffel Tower replica – a great photo opportunity!

French Connection Day is a free event. Parking is \$5 per vehicle.

The First Division Museum and Robert R. McCormick Museum will be open on French Connection Day from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission to both museums is free year-round. Visitors may also wish to stroll through Cantigny’s 30 acres of colorful gardens.

Cantigny Park is open every day during summer from 7 am to dusk. A complete schedule of concerts, workshops and special events is posted online. Annual memberships starting at \$50 include unlimited free parking and other benefits.

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About Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park, part of the nonprofit Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is the 500-acre Wheaton (Illinois) estate of Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955), longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. It is home to 30 acres of spectacular gardens, the Robert R. McCormick Museum, the First Division Museum and a 27-hole championship golf course. All are open to the public. Cantigny also is a favorite destination for special events, weddings, concerts, lectures, workshops and other recreation and learning opportunities for all ages. Full-service banquet and dining

facilities are on site. More information, including hours, directions and a calendar of upcoming events is online at Cantigny.org. For details about Cantigny Golf, including the Cantigny Golf Academy and 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links, please visit CantignyGolf.com.

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