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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANTIGNY PARK PRESENTS “FRENCH CONNECTION DAY” AUGUST 9

French Consulate official will cut ribbon and welcome guests at 8th annual festival

WHEATON, IL, July 27, 2015 — Cantigny Park invites everyone to “French Connection Day” on Sunday, August 9. The popular free-admission celebration of French culture debuted in 2008.

Deputy Consul General Francois Pellerin from the French Consulate in Chicago will open the festival at 10 am with a ribbon-cutting. He will address visitors with brief remarks from the entertainment stage at 11:30 am.

Throughout the day, the French Consulate will host an information booth focused on A La Carte, a week of French culinary opportunities happening in Chicago this November.

French Connection Day at Cantigny 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 French village that he and his fellow soldiers helped liberate from German occupation.

In his will, McCormick (1880-1955) established Cantigny “as a public park and museum for the recreation, instruction and welfare of the people of the State of Illinois.”

French Connection Day is a prime opportunity for families to enjoy the Colonel’s extraordinary 500-acre gift. Attractions and activities will include:

- French Open Air Market presented by Bensidoun
- 23-foot Eiffel Tower replica – an excellent photo opportunity!
- French music by Claudia Hommel and accordionist Patricia Spaeth
- Wine tasting and French food at *Le Jardin* restaurant
- French yard game pétanque (courtesy of Chicago Pétanque Club)
- Street performers including mime and can-can dancers
- Kids’ art project and storytime with Madeline

French Connection Day is a free festival. Parking is \$5 per vehicle (complimentary for Cantigny members). Event hours are 10 am to 4 pm.

For more information about Cantigny Park please visit Cantigny.org.

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About Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is the 500-acre Wheaton estate of Col. Robert R. McCormick. It is home to the McCormick Museum, First Division Museum, formal gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails, and a Visitor Center with banquet and dining facilities. More information, including hours, directions, and upcoming events, can be found online at Cantigny.org. Cantigny Golf, adjacent to the park, features a 27-hole championship golf course, clubhouse with banquet and dining rooms, Cantigny Golf Academy, and the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links. For more information, please visit CantignyGolf.com.