



Part of the McCormick Foundation Team

## News Release

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### For Immediate Release

### **Cantigny Park Celebrates Golden Anniversary**

*Cantigny to host 5-day celebration in honor of benefactor Robert R. McCormick*

**WHEATON, Ill – June 17, 2008** – Cantigny will kick off its 50th Anniversary celebration beginning July 1 – 5, 10 am to 5 pm. The celebration honors park benefactor, Robert R. McCormick whose generosity returned a 500 acre estate to the people of Illinois to use for recreational and educational purposes.

“Over the last 50 years, Cantigny Park has grown into a facility that the people of Illinois cherish,” said Matt LaFond, executive director, Cantigny Foundation. “We offer a beautiful park for the entire family to enjoy with a host of programs that are committed to serving the community.”

Cantigny’s week-long festivities are free to the public and include gardening programs, sneak peeks inside rarely viewed historical artifacts, museum tours, an experimental farm, hay ride and a host of children and family activities. In addition, visitors can also enjoy an Independence Day celebration, complete with sky jumpers who will unveil the flag during their act, live music and free food for the entire day.

The multi-faceted campus is a part of McCormick’s vision to leave a living legacy that will continue to serve the people of Illinois. His last wish was to create a charitable trust – The McCormick Foundation- and leave his estate, valued at \$55 million at his time of death, to the residents of Illinois to enjoy at their choosing. Those wishes were reinforcement of McCormick’s character.

“His wisdom, courage and generosity were exemplified when he chose to commit his wealth to the public for generations to come,” said LaFond. “If Mr. McCormick were here today, I think he would be proud that we have continued his legacy.”

To celebrate Cantigny’s golden milestone or to learn more on the anniversary celebration, please call 630 260 8162 or visit [www.Cantigny.org](http://www.Cantigny.org).

### ***Cantigny 50th Anniversary schedule is as follows:***

Tuesday, July 1	Garden Day
Wednesday, July 2	Museum Day
Thursday, July 3	Farm Day
Friday, July 4	Independence Day
Saturday, July 5	Lincoln Bicentennial Program

-More-

**About the McCormick Foundation**

The McCormick Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening our free, democratic society by investing in children, communities and country. Through its five grantmaking programs, Cantigny Park and Golf, and three world-class museums, the Foundation helps build a more active and engaged citizenry. The Foundation was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. The Foundation is one of the nation's largest charities, with \$1.2 billion in assets.

For more information, please visit [www.McCormickFoundation.org](http://www.McCormickFoundation.org).

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