

## THUIN

### The FCI announces its centenary in 2011

**Locally, the city can lay claim to fame thanks to Saint Roch and his dog. At international level, Thuin owes its reputation to the dog.**

Pierre Dejardin –  - translation by Marie Luna Durán

In 2009, the nursery and primary schools of the Athénée de Thuin accepted the invitation of the FCI to participate in a drawing activity which theme was *The dog*. This year, the community schools, as well as participants from the whole world, will join them.

#### The contest step by step

In April 2009, the teachers worked on the images which the dog calls to the children's mind. About 70 budding artists took part, from the first grade of nursery to the last of primary school. The jury was made up of, notably, Hans Müller, President of the FCI, Vittorio Leonardo, comic creator, Massimo Cannizzaro, sculptor, and Philippe Blanchart, acting as Mayor.

From October to December 2009, the drawings were exhibited during the dog shows of Charleroi, Courtrai and Brussels, but also at the S.P.A. (society for the prevention of cruelty to animals) of Charleroi. They attracted a potential audience of more than 6,000 people, who awarded the Prize of the public.

Award ceremony. The prizes awarded by the S.P.A., represented by Franck Goffaux, went to 1. Maxime Bauval, nursery school; 2. Lucas Cransquint, 2nd grade of primary school; 3. Antoine Daubresse, 6th grade of primary school.

The Prize of the public awarded by Alain Lechien, representing *Royal canin*, went to the class of the 3rd and 4th grades of primary school whose teacher is Patricia Chalon.

The prizes awarded by the FCI also went to Maxime Bauval, Lucas Cransquint, the class of the 3rd and 4th grades of primary school and Antoine Daubresse. The prize awarded by Philippe Blanchart went to Lucas Cransquint.

2010 edition. «*For the 2010 edition, says Marie Luna Durán, FCI Marketing and Public Relations Manager, we have invited the 84 members of the FCI to join, making it an international contest. A number of them have already accepted with enthusiasm: Japan, Finland, Poland, China, Latvia, Georgia, Iceland and the Philippines, and many more are expected. Each member will send us a pre-selection of five drawings. The eight community schools of Thuin will also participate and the drawings collected by the S.P.A. during its activities are also welcome. All these players represent a promising creativity, much richness and variety and a wide range of means of expression on the theme of the dog.*» Indeed, the contest is open to all kinds of techniques and perspectives.

Philippe Blanchart, acting as Mayor, stresses the positive image of the city and of Wallonia that the 13 workers of the FCI convey. Thuin, which enjoys international exposure, thus showcases the region, with all the relations, as well as the hopes of commercial and economic exchanges, that this implies.

Let us underline that a letter from the national canine organization of Argentina was shown on the occasion, informing that one Labrador retriever registered in Argentina was part of the team which saved nine lives after the Haïti earthquake.