



Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Summer 2014 Newsletter

Volume 26 No. 3

The Explorer Rose Garden is Finished

By Sharon Saunders



R. Hinchcliff

Explorer Rose Garden, 2013

Asix-year project to re-configure the Explorer Rose Garden is complete – well, at least for now.

In November 2011, we installed a new wooden fence in a long border (see photos above and on Page 6) to encompass the Explorers that Dr. Felicitas Svejda developed here at the Farm. We had decided that the former steel frames were too industrial and did not convey the bucolic scene that is more in keeping with the Ornamental Gardens.

Last year's remake

Last year, we worked on two smaller borders, with similar wooden fences. In April, we potted the roses that remained in the former beds and placed them in a holding area near the

greenhouse. In early May, the irrigation system was reconfigured and buried, and the soil level was brought up to grade using a combination of compost [bottom fill] and triple mix [top dressing].

By mid-May the post and rail fences were installed, creating the two borders separated by a wide path. The whole area was made level so there was no more stepping down into these new beds. The surrounding area was over-seeded with a grass and clover mix; the first cut was three weeks after sowing.

The salvaged roses, 13 in all, were transplanted in mid-July into the new borders, flowering for a second time in a year.

In October, the final stage of the remake was completed with the elimination of the large rectangular bed, keeping only the three pillar roses. Other roses from this bed were transplanted to the new borders or to the Heritage Rose Garden. The area was filled in with compost and triple mix, levelled and over-seeded. In addition, the soil in the beds surrounding the Gazebo was raised to grade, which should revitalize the roses in that area.

The former two signs (English and French)

describing the collection will be placed in the new beds – one to a bed, facing each other at the path.

Six-year crusade complete this year

This year, another 15 or so roses will be purchased for the small beds, which will complete the design.

So, this is how the area is now configured:

- the long fence border holds Dr. Svejda's Ottawa roses,
- the borders with the smaller fences that mirror the longer one contain roses developed at other AAFC research stations,
- the Gazebo surround has a mix of both, and
- the three pillar Jens Munk roses remain in place, looking like sentinels of the Explorer collection.

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President's message - Note du président

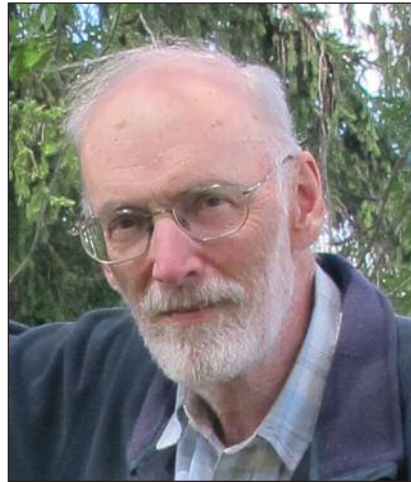
The Changing Scene

All organizations go through changes: changes in places, changes in tools and, most importantly, changes in people moving to meet new challenges.

People: A recent change at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada of note to us is the departure of Crispin Wood, whose knowledge of trees and communication skills will be sorely missed. Crispin is leaving his position as lead hand in the Arboretum to take on urban forestry duties in the Regional Municipality of York, a very large area north of Toronto. Fair travels, Crispin!

Recently, the Friends of the Farm have also had a number of changes. Over the last few months, we've added four new people to the Board of Directors: Marsha Gutierrez, treasurer (although many will remember Marsha in her former role as office manager); Kate Harrigan, incoming director of fundraising; Yvonne Ackerman, director of membership; and Jennifer Ford, director of events. And we have a new staff person, Alisha Rexford.

Changes have placed greater demands on existing volunteers as well. Thanks are due especially to Polly McColl, Denise Kennedy, Donna Pape, Betty-Jean Riordan and Carol McColgan for their added efforts in keeping the wheels going!



Tools: Our communications outreach has lengthened considerably with a number of changes:

- *Farm Notes*, an electronic newsletter to keep all up-to-date with things related to the Farm, ornamental gardens, urban forests and greenspaces.
- Social media (<https://www.facebook.com/FCEFOttawa>) provides great pictures and connects with many other people interested in the Farm. Many thanks to

Kelsey Cuddihy.

- A volunteer orientation session was held in May to introduce new volunteers to the garden teams.
- In addition, the Friends are assisting staff with GPS mapping of trees in the Arboretum, leading to future tools that will add to enjoyment of the Farm.

Places: Everyone will have noticed the "big digs" going on around the Farm for the past many months. Some holes have been for water and sewer services, part of a 7-year project to be completed in 2015.

Other digs have been for fibre optic cabling, now essentially complete. The old cable network used to occupy the heat tunnels, no longer required to heat buildings on the Farm.

The iconic Sir John Carling building will be dismantled by November. Then the remaining part of the building (the annex) will be re-purposed and brought back into use.

The Tropical Greenhouse, the octagonal glass building on Maple Drive, has gone through extensive renovation and is being repopulated with plants and will re-open in the fall. This is a welcome return and will add to the many attractions that draw the public to the Farm.

Un contexte en évolution

Toutes les organisations subissent des changements, que ce soit de lieux, d'outils, et plus important encore, elles font l'objet d'évolution chez les personnes en quête de nouveaux défis.

Les personnes : Un changement récent au sein d'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada nous importe avant tout. Il s'agit du départ de Crispin Wood, dont la connaissance des arbres et les aptitudes en communication vont nous manquer énormément. Crispin quitte son poste à titre de chef de groupe de l'Arboretum pour cumuler des fonctions en foresterie urbaine dans la municipalité régionale de York, vaste région située dans le nord de Toronto. Heureux voyages, Crispin!

Récemment, bon nombre de changements sont survenus chez les Amis de la Ferme. Au cours des derniers mois, quatre nouvelles personnes siègent désormais au conseil d'administration : Marsha Gutierrez, trésorière (certains d'entre vous se souviendront sans doute de Marsha alors qu'elle était gestionnaire de bureau); Kate Harrigan, nouvelle directrice du financement; Yvonne Ackerman, directrice du service aux membres; Jennifer Ford, directrice des événements. De plus, nous saluons Alisha Rexford comme nouveau membre du

personnel.

De fait, les changements ont mené à des demandes plus élevées auprès des bénévoles en place également. Nous devons des remerciements particuliers à Polly McColl, Denise Kennedy, Donna Pape, Betty-Jean Riordan et Carol McColgan des efforts supplémentaires qu'elles ont déployés pour maintenir les rouages en mouvement!

Les outils: Nos communications et nos relations avec le public se sont accentuées, et des changements considérables ont été apportés :

- *Farm Notes*, un bulletin électronique qui tient compte de tout ce qui concerne la Ferme, les jardins ornementaux, les parcs urbains et les espaces verts.
- Le média social dont le lien paraît ici, <https://www.facebook.com/FCEFOttawa>, présente d'impressionnantes photos et relie bien d'autres gens qui démontrent un intérêt pour la Ferme. Nos remerciements sincères vont à Kelsey Cuddihy.
- Une séance d'information à l'intention des bénévoles a été tenue en mai pour présenter les nouveaux venus aux équipes des jardins.
- De plus, les Amis ont secondé le personnel lorsqu'est venu le moment de cartographier les arbres de l'Arboretum au moyen d'un

système de location GPS, menant à la création prochaine d'outils qui ajouteront de l'agrément pour les visiteurs à la Ferme

Les lieux : Plusieurs d'entre vous ont pu voir de grandes parties ou tranchées qui avaient été creusées un peu partout sur la Ferme au cours des derniers mois. Certaines l'ont été pour assurer des services d'eau et d'égout, dans le cadre d'une initiative qui aura duré sept ans et qui se terminera en 2015

Dans d'autres tranchées, ce sont des câbles à fibres optiques qui ont été installés, et les travaux sont pratiquement terminés. Par contre, les vieux câbles des tunnels chauffants ne seront plus utilisés pour le chauffage des édifices sur la Ferme.

Le légendaire édifice Sir John Carling sera démoli d'ici novembre prochain. L'autre partie de l'immeuble, l'annexe, sera dédiée à d'autres fonctions et remise en état.

La serre tropicale, immeuble de forme octogonale et aux murs vitrés donnant sur la promenade Maple, a subi d'importantes rénovations, et des plantes y seront abritées de nouveau. L'ouverture est prévue à l'automne. Avec ce retour si longuement anticipé, la serre figurera parmi les nombreux atouts qui attirent le public vers la Ferme

Eric Jones

The Explorer Rose Garden is Finished *(continued from Page 1)*

This project has been ongoing for six years. It has been my crusade to remove the metal fence that cut the Gardens in half and to make the area open, as it should be. I thank my team for their hard work and the Friends' Explorer team for their patience in this long endeavour.

In the early 1980s, Sharon Saunders helped tend to Dr Svejda's seedlings during development of the Explorer roses at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. She is responsible for the Ornamental Gardens, where she has recently produced award-winning beds.



Digging the trench for the fence



Preparing the fence



The two new short fences

In Memory

We salute the memory of three volunteers and staunch supporters who recently died. Their contributions to the Friends of the Farm were valuable and much appreciated.

Allison Randall was one of our originals, becoming a Friend of the Farm in 1988. Over the years since then, she gardened, baked, served tea, made and sold crafts, led tours, tended cash, and helped out wherever she could. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude was infectious.

Peg McEwan was an artist, who shared her talents with the Friends. She was a fixture at many of our events raising funds with her instant portraits in charcoal, and was a loyal supporter of all our programs.

Denise Metha was a retired social worker and avid bird watcher who had volunteered with the Peony Team for several years. Team members and the peonies alike benefited from her enthusiasm, sense of humour and cheerful disposition.

We send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of these volunteers who were so generous with their time and energies for the Friends of the Farm.

Keep the Merivale Shelterbelt Growing

Would you like to publicly express a fond memory, a shared love, a recognition of service, an affectionate tribute, or have some other dedication engraved on a plaque at the western entrance to the Central Experimental Farm?

Do you belong to an association or club; are you part of a group of friends, a family; or an individual? All are encouraged to participate and help the Friends of the Farm build the green Shelterbelt along Merivale Road.

Now well established along Merivale near Baseline, the Shelterbelt provides a green buffer between the Farm and busy urban surroundings. A pedestrian on the path that meanders alongside Farm fields can enjoy roses and lilacs without seeing or being seen from Merivale Road. Some trees are already over 10 metres high.

But there is much to be done. The goal is to extend the Shelterbelt all the way along that edge of the Farm. Thanks to generous donations, Friends of the Farm volunteers are planting new trees and shrubs each year; but we need more.

Please consider this opportunity to help build this beautiful green space. And, at the same time, place a personal dedication to a loved one or special cause, or just express yourself! The size of the plaque depends on your contribution. More information is available at friendsofthefarm.ca/belt.htm, info@friendsofthefarm.ca or 613-230-3276.



Volunteers at the Shelterbelt

Upcoming Events

For more information, visit www.friendsofthefarm.ca or call 613-230-3276.

Victorian Tea

- Sunday, July 13, 2 to 4 pm.
- Classic tea served under the trees of the Arboretum.
- Bring a patio chair and listen to live music.
- Enter the best hat contest and don period costume (optional).
- Location: Building 72, CEF Arboretum.
- Admission and parking free; formal tea \$8.



Art on the Farm

- Saturday, August 16, 10 am to 4 pm.
- Artists will display and sell their original works under the trees of the CEF.
- Location: Arboretum, near Building 72, east of the Prince of Wales roundabout.
- Free admission and parking.



Annual General Meeting

- Wednesday, September 17, 7 pm.
- Guest speaker is Phil Jenkins, Ottawa's most knowledgeable and lively chronicler, maker of fine English, bestselling author (see below).
- Location: TBA, please check the website.

All are welcome. You do not have to be a member to attend.

Spring Bulbs, an Essential for Every Garden

The final 2014 session by Master Gardeners is to be held from 7 to 9 pm on September 9 in Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm. Price: \$12 for FCEF members, \$15 others.

Mary Ann Van Berlo will discuss naturalizing with bulbs and the use of minor bulbs. She will offer suggestions for uncommon bulbs that make a great addition to the garden, and will share some ideas on forcing bulbs indoors. Planting, maintenance and pest control for spring bulbs will also be covered.



Merivale Shelterbelt

Notice

At our Annual General Meeting on September 17, 2014, we will ask members to approve revised by-laws for the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm. The changes are a result of new federal legislation governing charitable organizations. The most significant change will be in the way we elect our Board of Directors. The proposed new by-laws will be posted to our website and copies made available at the office by the beginning of August.

Phil Jenkins to Speak at AGM

We are delighted to have Phil Jenkins as guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting on September 17. Ottawa's most knowledgeable and lively chronicler, he has written over 800 columns for the Citizen, including the popular 'City Stroller' series, written numerous magazine articles and books, and performed as a singer/songwriter.

Phil came back to Ottawa in 1978 from Liverpool, England, with experience in playwriting, a teaching certificate and an honours degree in environmental sciences. He had grown up in Ottawa in the 1950s.

His first book, *Fields of Vision: A Journey to Canada's Family Farms*, was a national bestseller. He then published the award-winning *An Acre of Time*, the story of the life of a single acre of land at LeBreton Flats in Ottawa. This book was made into a play that was nominated for a Governor General's award. He has written a history of the St. Lawrence River as well as local histories on the Ottawa Public Library and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.

Phil writes from a straw bale house in the Gatineau Hills, where he is finishing his first play and a second album of songs. "I've come here to unearth a story," he says on his website. We look forward to the story he will unearth for us on September 17.



spurfestival.ca

A Love of Roses and Hostas

Fiona Cowell loves roses. Unfortunately, the garden that she and husband Stephen Joy have at their home in Old Ottawa South is not large enough for more than just a few. Large enough, that is to say, after the 30 different hostas, several peonies and various other plants they grow.

With her father in the navy, Fiona's family moved a lot and were never in one place for long enough to have a significant garden, although she does remember a vegetable garden at a home in Carleton Place when she was eight or nine years old. However, she and Stephen have always had a garden. Initially the focus was on herbs and vegetables, "as Stephen likes to cook," but it soon expanded and it is hard to find room for anything new anymore.

After Fiona retired from a 33-year career with the federal government in 2005, which included a return to university to complete a Master of Adult Education, she became an active volunteer with the Friends of the Farm the following summer.

With her interest in gardening, the volunteer 'green thumb' teams were the obvious choice. Fiona now leads the Friday rose team in the CEF Heritage Rose Garden and is a member of the hosta team.

Unlike some of the other Friends' teams where the work is most intense in the spring or early summer, the rose team has steady work to do all season long, Fiona says. After clearing away winter protection from the roses, there is pruning, constant deadheading of the repeat bloomers and, of course, the Japanese beetle hunt. At home, these pests leave Fiona's roses alone; they much prefer her porcelain vine (*Ampelopsis*). "The berry is a beautiful turquoise colour and the Japanese beetles love it."

Big fan of hostas

Fiona has learned a lot about hostas by volunteering on the Friends' hosta team. She is a big fan of the popular shade plants; hence, her collection at home. One of her favourites is 'Fire and Ice', which is mostly white with green edging.

For many years, there was not much to be done in the Hosta Garden at the Arboretum, after an initial spring clean up. It has been different the last few years, during which time "we have moved every hosta at least once." This is a time of transition for the Garden. The fine new wall is just the first step in a major rebuild and, as well, other plants are being introduced. Daylilies, for example, were planted in areas more exposed to the sun following the loss of trees.

Strong support for the Friends

Fiona and Stephen signed up as members of the fledgling Friends of the Central Experimental Farm in the early 1990s, when rumours were rife that Ottawa's farm in the centre of the city might be put on the chopping block. "We agreed with what the Friends were doing," she says.

And they still do. Fiona believes strongly that there remains a need for the Friends and urges us not to lose sight of the reason the organization was formed. The threat to the Farm is ongoing.

Ottawa has few public gardens and Fiona is anxious to do her part to see the Farm continue to flourish. One problem she sees is



Fiona Cowell with 'Carefree Beauty' rose

access. "it is ridiculous that there is no bus service to the Farm," she says. "A city that provides few gardens should be providing good public transportation to those it has."

She also wonders if a good opportunity is being missed to raise funds for the Ornamental Gardens. Visitors often ask volunteers where they can purchase plants, such as the rare Siberian irises that are grown at the Gardens. Fiona thinks it's a shame that the Farm cannot take advantage of this interest and somehow market the plants.

Volunteering – a rewarding experience

"When I retired, I looked around to see what I could do for the community. The Friends was a natural choice: it combined my love of gardening and support for the Farm."

The big draw of volunteering, however, is the "people who stop by to ask what we are doing. People are fascinated to learn about the gardens and about the work of the Friends. And you would be surprised by the number of people who say thanks. It makes the experience very rewarding."

Richard Hinchcliff

A Rose is Born: In Search of Perfection

By Edythe Falconer

The Adams and Eves of roses, the species roses, were found in the beginning growing only in the northern hemisphere. Over the centuries they extended their territory to include most of the habitable planet, in the form of sports, hybrids, and hybrids of hybrids. Today we enjoy thousands of their lovely descendants.

Expanding the Canadian rose family tree

The Canadian branch of the rose family tree expanded similarly. Homesick immigrants arrived with rosy bits of "the old country" to enhance their new abodes. When they encountered roses native to Canada, enthusiastic professional and hobbyist hybridizers took advantage of fresh sources of DNA by combining the best characteristics of both imports and locals. Some of our hybrids can tough it out in Canadian Zone 2.

Many roses in the Canadian Explorer Series are named after hardy human pioneers who were motivated by love of adventure combined with visions of profit and recognition. As they travelled they mapped, traded and raided. They regularly interacted with indigenous populations and competing explorers. Rose hybridizers, with their many arranged marriages and/or liaisons have similar motives – the promise of creating a new cultivar and the possibility of profit, both



'Carmenetta' by Isabella Preston

intellectual and monetary. Mapping is still important in order to support impending rose patents.

It is worth mentioning some of the independent Canadian hybridizers who came before our famous Explorer series, in what I call the hobbyist phase of hybridizing in Canada. Percy Wright, Frank Skinner, Robert Erskine, Bert Harp and Georges Bugnet are just a few examples. We celebrate their work in the Farm's Heritage Rose Garden.

In approximately the same time period Isabella Preston was actively producing hybrids of many different plants at the Farm. Although best known for her work on lilacs, from 1920 until 1946 she made major contributions in the field of hybridization, including more than 20 rose hybrids. We have two of those hybrids in the Heritage Rose Garden. Before Preston's work at the Farm, we remember with fondness and respect William Saunders and his 'Agnes' rose.



'Agnes' by William Saunders

Post-war series of roses

The "Dirty Thirties" passed and WWII ended. The post-war phase built on Preston's work and gained huge momentum with the dedicated endeavours of Felicitas Svejda who, with her co-workers and successors created, directly and indirectly, many hardy new hybrids between 1961 and 1999 in Ottawa, Ontario, and at L'Assomption and L'Acadie in Quebec. Explorer roses continue to be



Explorer Rose Garden, 2013

popular, as demonstrated by their ready availability at garden centres throughout the country.

Post-war Canadian roses continued with one series after another – 25 Explorers, 13 Parklands (Mordens), 2 Prairies and 4 Canadian Artists. A mystery Artist rose is set to appear later this year. Many more are being field tested cooperatively by Vineland Research Station and the Canadian Nursery Landscaping Association.

Multiple combinations and permutations of rose DNA will continue full tilt supported by consumers and commercial interests eager to retail ever more endearing renditions of *rosa*. Desirable characteristics will continue to include fragrance, size of blooms, zone hardiness, disease resistance, colour, form, foliage, repeat or continuous blooming – even depetalling, also known as self-cleaning.

The secrets of success

However when “perfect” roses are put up for “adoption” they face additional challenges. Those from good stock will get off to a good start. After that they must rely on consumers who do their homework and retailers who educate as they sell. Responsible retailers help customers choose the right rose for their location. They stress the importance of winter protection during the first winter out of pot and into ground. They advise that in our climate root stock/scion join should be buried four to six inches below the surface of the soil. Public gardens, relying as they do on “numbers” – staff, volunteers and budgets – present additional challenges.

The characteristics of the perfect rose can only be fully realized if all stakeholders in rose futures do their part. Michael Pollan, in *The Botany of Desire*, suggests that plants may be controlling us as much as we control them. Many people and organizations have vested interests in roses – hybridizers, growers, nurseries, homeowners, landscape businesses, botanical gardens, florists, researchers, perfumers, and groundskeepers. Why so much fuss over one plant? Let’s ask the roses. “We’re beautiful, symbolic, scented and tough but nowadays we can’t keep this up without help. You need to work harder on resistance to insect attacks. We recommend that you check out ‘Rugosa Ottawa’ as hybridized by Felicitas Svejda right here in Ottawa. We need more of Rugosa Ottawa’s DNA.”

Edythe Falconer, a frequent contributor to this newsletter, is an Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardener and the Friends of the Farm’s rose advisor.



Explorer rose ‘John Davis’



Explorer rose ‘Henry Kelsey’



Garden Roses for Canada: Before the Explorers

By Cyril Benson

*"I know a bank whereon the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine."*

William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Shakespeare knew his roses and obviously enjoyed other wild flowers too, for these two wild roses (*Rosa moschata* and *R. eglanteria*), were species roses, not the hybrid roses we are more familiar with now. Along with dog roses (*R. canina*), they abundantly graced the English countryside of his time, and also of my childhood memory. These were three of many wild, or species, roses that were all originally single flowered (5 petals), with different characteristics and properties.

Fragrance was one characteristic we know Shakespeare appreciated (in *Romeo and Juliet* he notes that a rose by "any other name would smell as sweet"), but not all wild roses were fragrant. All had different degrees of hardiness depending on where they grew naturally, and so on.

Cultivated roses come to Canada

By the 15th or 16th century, mutations of these wild roses were being cultivated in Europe – roses such as Gallicas, Damasks, and Centrifolias. These roses found their way to Canada with the early settlers, especially in Lower Canada, and proved hardy enough for this climate. They may still occasionally be discovered hundreds of years later growing by deserted homestead sites. (My wife and I found such a rose 30 years ago when a wooded site in Ottawa was being cleared for development. It still grows in our garden, a pink double flower with good scent.) These roses flowered once a year in late June, as they had in Europe.

Meanwhile, cross-breeding or hybridization was continuing apace in Europe and probably in the Far East. New improved classes of roses became available. Towards the end of the 18th century, China roses were the first to introduce repeat flowering into the European mix. In the early 19th century, tea scented roses from China gave rise to a new class called Tea roses. The

repeat flowering gene gave us Hybrid Perpetuals, which in the late 19th century were the most popular roses, only to be overtaken in the 20 century by Hybrid Teas, which were also repeat flowering roses, with larger flowers.

Advice on growing roses

By the time Dr. William Saunders became Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms there were probably thousands of named varieties of rose in Europe, and Canadian rose lovers were trying to grow them in Canada.



Musk rose (*Rosa moschata*)

Wikipedia.org

As a rose lover, Dr. Saunders felt strongly that Canadians should grow more roses, and that the main reason they did not was – quoting from his annual report of 1895 – "Many of the finest roses in cultivation are not sufficiently hardy to endure the winter climate of Ottawa and the losses which lovers of the rose have experienced from having selected tender varieties for cultivation have had the result of discouraging many."

To gain reliable information about the varieties that could with suitable care be grown in Ottawa, he initiated a test of the best roses from Europe. The test began in 1891 and his annual report of 1895 gave some preliminary results. He found that many of the older "summer" roses are quite hardy, but that the Teas or ever-blooming sorts are too tender for outdoor cultivation, and that the Hybrid Perpetuals are by far the most useful and satisfactory. Dr. Saunders gave a list of 36 rose varieties that could be grown in Ottawa without protection. It was enough, he wrote, for a very fine selection.

The Saunders test of roses continued until 1911, at which time the testing beds were moved and the tests continued until Isabella Preston was hired as Specialist in Ornamental Horticulture. In 1935 she reported what are evidently the final results in terms of recommended roses for various regions of Canada, in a bulletin entitled "Hardy Roses, Their Culture in Canada." The bulletin included advice on growing roses – soil types, exposure, fertilization, detailed methods of propagation, winter protection, treatment of diseases and insect infestations. Miss Preston also gave details of the cross-breeding technique she used as a professional hybridist.

To beautify the country

It seems a little strange that so much time and energy should have been devoted by Agriculture Canada to the culture of roses, but in an earlier edition of "Hardy Roses," W.T. Macoun made it clear that what was needed in Canada was to beautify the farms – farm houses or homesteads – by encouraging farmers to create a rose garden. When the Minister of Agriculture was given the



William Saunders

bulletin, J.H. Grisdale, the Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, noted that "no single factor would do more to hold the sons and daughters of farmers on the farm than pleasant home surroundings," and suggested a very wide distribution of this bulletin to encourage farmers in this direction.

Garden roses are not grown for exhibition and Macoun gave five criteria which garden roses should aim to satisfy:

1. Constitution – The constitution of the plant must be vigorous in order to produce a large number of flowers of good quality.
2. Flowering Habit – The plant should be a perpetual bloomer.
3. Colour – The colour of an ideal rose should be such as will last for some days without fading.
4. Fragrance – Fragrance is half the charm in the garden rose. (Shakespeare would have rated it more highly).
5. Form – The petals should be such as will retain the form for several days.

Of course, in some parts of Canada the primary criterion is adequate hardiness (only coastal British Columbia and the extreme southern Ontario can grow most roses without protection in the winter), so attempts were made to produce hardy roses for our climate.



'Baroness Rothschild', one of Saunders' recommended roses. This illustration was in his 1895 report. The rose is in the Heritage Rose Garden

Hardy roses from the Farm

Dr. Saunders crossed *R. rugosa* (the Japanese rose) with Persian Yellow and produced a very hardy shrub with lemon yellow flowers, fragrant but only blooming once a year. The resultant rose was named 'Agnes' (for his wife Sarah Agnes) and was awarded a Gold Medal at the American Rose Society in 1926. For his second rose, he crossed *R. rugosa* with 'Harison's Yellow'. This was named 'Grace'. 'Agnes' is still available from rose growers and may be seen in the Heritage Rose Garden at the Farm. As a *Rugosa* hybrid, it is a very hardy, disease-resistant shrub rose.

In 1920, when Isabella Preston began her work on rose hybridization, there were still no continuous bloomers that were sufficiently hardy to survive the Ottawa climate and continue flowering into the autumn. She started her cross-breeding with the thoroughly hardy species roses and hybrids that were available. In her first attempt, she chose *R. rubrifolia* (red-leaved species rose) as seed parent and *R. rugosa* as pollen parent. From this cross at least four named varieties were obtained: 'Carmenetta', a 10 feet tall by eight feet bush with purplish green foliage and clusters of bright red flowers; 'Algonquin', a similarly sized plant with single three-inch purple flowers; 'Mohawk', a three feet tall shrub with single purple flowers with white centers; and 'Micmac', which does not make a solid bush, but sends up stems about six feet tall holding clusters of single white flowers with streaks of rose. All these varieties met the hardiness criterion, but only bloomed in June.

Miss Preston continued hybridizing through the 1920s and 1930s while also supervising the tests of European

hybrids (until at least 1935). She produced more than 20 named varieties, most of which now seem to be unavailable. 'Carmenetta' and 'Patricia Macoun' are the two being grown in Ottawa and at the Farm.

The value of Isabella Preston's work with roses was the extreme hardiness of her hybrids and the fact that many of them produced a good crop of hips in the fall, making them suitable for further hybridization work.

The farming community and other rose lovers were now well equipped to set up their own rose gardens by virtue of the bulletins distributed by the Department of Agriculture. Further hybridization work was necessary to produce both hardy and repeat flowering (or continuous blooming) roses for all parts of Canada. At the Farm, this work was done by Dr. Felicitas Svejda, who produced the Explorer roses (see Page 6).

Cyril Benson was a member of the first Friends of the Farm's Explorer rose team, which he now leads.



Isabella Preston with one of her roses

FCEF Archives



The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm is a volunteer organization committed to the maintenance and protection of the Ornamental Gardens and the Arboretum of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Membership in the Friends of the Farm costs \$25 per year for an individual and \$45 per year for a family, \$20 Seniors/Students. Membership fees support the many projects of the Friends of the Farm.

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Welcome to Andrea Lyon, Deputy Minister, AAFC

Bienvenue à Andrea Lyon, sous-ministre d'AAC

We extend a warm welcome to Andrea Lyon, who was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), effective April 28. This is a return to the department for Ms. Lyon who was Associate Deputy Minister for AAFC from 2009 to 2011.

Ms. Lyon began her career with the federal government in 1993 at Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and, for 15 years, she served in various positions related to Canada's trade policy and relations. Among her prior appointments, Ms. Lyon was Canada's Chief Trade Negotiator for North America from 2006 to 2008 at Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. Immediately prior to joining AAFC, she was Associate Deputy Minister at Environment Canada.

As Deputy Minister at AAFC, she replaces Suzanne Vinet, who has retired after 30 years in the civil service.

A native of Winnipeg, Ms. Lyon is a graduate of the University of Manitoba and is the Deputy Minister Champion for the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.



Nous souhaitons la bienvenue à Andrea Lyon, qui a été nommée sous-ministre d'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada (AAC) le 28 avril. Il s'agit d'un retour au Ministère pour Mme Lyon, qui a été sous-ministre déléguée à AAC de 2009 à 2011.

Mme Lyon a entrepris sa carrière au gouvernement fédéral en 1993 au ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international du Canada et, pendant 15 ans, elle a occupé divers postes liés aux politiques et aux relations commerciales du Canada. Au nombre de ses précédentes nominations, Mme Lyon a été négociatrice commerciale en chef du Canada pour l'Amérique du Nord de 2006 à 2008 au ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international du Canada. Avant de se joindre à AAC, elle était sous-ministre déléguée à Environnement Canada.

En tant que sous-ministre d'AAC, Mme Lyon remplace Suzanne Vinet, qui a pris sa retraite après 30 années de service à la fonction publique.

Originaire de Winnipeg, Mme Lyon est diplômée de l'Université du Manitoba et agit à titre de sous-ministre championne des relations avec l'Université du Manitoba et l'Université de Winnipeg.

Nourissez la croissance du brise-vent de la rue Merivale

Aimeriez-vous exprimer publiquement un souvenir qui vous est cher, un amour partagé, un service digne de reconnaissance ou un hommage, ou faire toute autre dédicace sur une plaque située à l'entrée Ouest de la Ferme expérimentale centrale?

Si vous êtes membre d'une association ou d'un club, si vous êtes un groupe d'amis, une famille ou même une seule personne, vous pouvez participer à la création du brise-vent le long de la rue Merivale, ou aider les Amis de la Ferme à le faire.

Désormais bien établi le long de la rue Merivale au coin de Baseline, le brise-vent fait écran entre la Ferme et le tumulte urbain environnant. En effet, un piéton sur le sentier longeant la Ferme peut maintenant admirer les roses et lilas sans aucun contact visuel avec la rue Merivale. Certains arbres dépassent même les dix mètres.

Mais il y a encore beaucoup à faire : l'objectif est de prolonger le brise-vent sur toute la longueur de la Ferme. Grâce à vos dons généreux, les bénévoles des Amis de la Ferme rajoutent de nouveaux arbres et lilas chaque année, mais il nous en faut davantage.

Saisissez donc l'occasion de contribuer à la création de ce bel espace vert tout en exprimant votre attachement à une cause, un être cher, ou en vous exprimant tout simplement! La taille de la plaque sera fonction de votre contribution. Vous trouverez davantage d'information à friendsofthefarm.ca/belt.htm, ou encore à l'adresse info@friendsofthefarm.ca or 613-230-3276.

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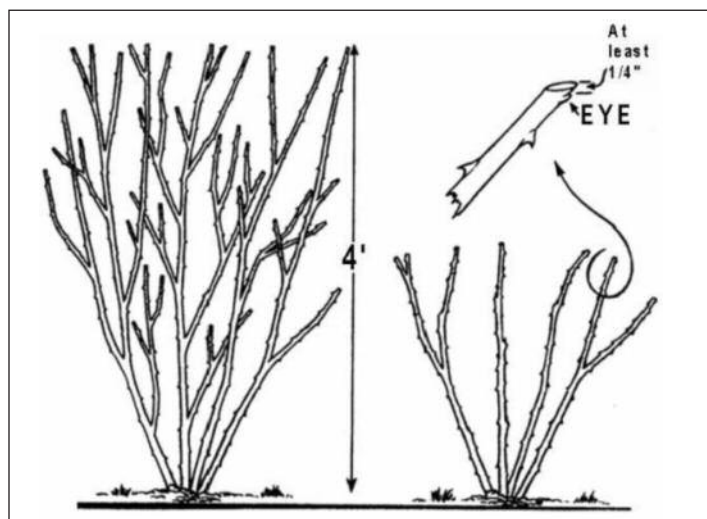
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Buds of Wisdom ... *(continued from Page 12)*

rose-gardening-made-easy.com



How to prune shrub roses

Shopping Smart

- Before you go shopping, know your zone, soil, lighting and wind exposure.
- Buy locally, keep receipts and buy in the spring if at all possible.
- Avoid lop-sided plants, check for diseases, bugs. Ask lots of questions. Don't rescue.
- Containers and bare roots: learn the advantages and disadvantages to each.

Miscellaneous Pruning Tips

- Avoid pruning when leaves are wet.
- Keep pruning shears clean, sharp and dry.
- Sharp cuts are less damaging to the plant and easier on the person wielding the shears.
- Remove old, less-productive canes every four to five years.
- If you've purchased a potted rose, examine the root system before popping it into its new home. If it is root bound, some root pruning may be needed. At the very least the roots will need to be untangled and spread out.

Tips on Light, Moisture and Nutrients

- Roses require at least six hours of direct sunlight daily in order to function optimally.
- Roses do not like wet feet; roses do not like dry feet. Moist is lovely!
- Water deeply once a week during dry spells.
- Never fertilize a dry plant.
- Roses in containers need water and fertilizer more often.
- Fertilize two to three times per growing season.
- Fertilizer can be organic and/or synthetic. Organic is better at improving soil structure.

Free rein or depetalling?

With regard to blossoms, we can let the bush have free rein or we can remove some buds for the sake of achieving larger but fewer blooms. The trend in rose gardens nowadays is to install cultivars that bloom continuously through the growing season, or that have two lengthy blooming periods before freeze up. This endearing characteristic can be encouraged if spent blooms are promptly removed. The plant then reverts to survival mode in which it makes a determined effort to produce more blooms and consequently more seeds of survival. These seeds of survival are contained in a pome or a rose hip, some of which are quite beautiful. Therefore, after the second bloom, we might want to refrain from removing the whole of a spent blossom. Instead, we can tidy them up by depetalling them to allow colourful hips to form – many of which stay on the bush throughout the winter – unless the birds get them. Some of the new rose cultivars are claiming to be self-depetalling!

Nature and nurture

In summary, let us raise our roses like we raise our children – fresh air and sunshine, good nutrition, consistent care and good “hydration.” We've all heard the

expression “you are what you eat” and that goes for roses too. The best cultivar/kid in the world may be only as good as the care that follows its creation. The luck factor? That holds true, too, for both nature and nurture.

R. Hinchcliff



Explorer rose 'Martin Frobisher'

Buds of Wisdom - From the Ground Up

By Edythe Falconer

Let's suppose you've just purchased one of the latest and loveliest rose cultivars on the market today. This could be 'Campfire', a rose in the Canadian Artist Series, named in honour of Tom Thomson. Excited? You should be. This is a hybridization masterpiece. From a rose perspective, it comes with all sorts of rosy bells and whistles. This is the honeymoon period. Where this rose ends up once it has been sold will determine, for better or for worse, whether it will be able to live up to its promotional reputation.

Soil Basics – The Perfect Pie?

Enter soil. Ideal soil balance is often depicted in the form of a pie chart. If I remember correctly, 24% is allocated to air, 24% to moisture and approximately 40% to mineral matter, a combination of sand, silt and clay that determines the texture of the soil. The remaining 12% of the pie is occupied by organic material. This 12% is extremely important as it is charged with nurturing soil structure – that complex system of soil aggregates that provides nutrition and preserves moisture while at the same time allowing for good drainage. That is quite an achievement for lowly little clumps of organic matter mixed with sand, silt and clay.

If 'Campfire' is to excel it will require a similarly well-balanced soil and this balance will need to be maintained over time with adequate moisture at regular intervals and annual additions of compost and well-rotted manure. Extra protection in its first winter on your property is essential when roots have not yet had time to establish themselves. That winter

protection can be the simple act of piling mulch or compost around the base of each rose.

In Ottawa Zone 5a, if 'Campfire' is on grafted stock, the graft join should be placed three to four inches below ground level. Apparently our zones are shifting by about one half of a zone since such things were last measured, but the advice will stand for the time being.

Pruning

We prune roses to maintain their health, productivity, form and general aesthetics. The most basic of pruning practices are the four Ds. If a cane has been severely damaged, it is best removed. Although it can be splinted, this is tricky and unreliable. If part of a cane is dead, that part needs to be cut away to where live cambium is visible. Diseased canes can be sprayed but unless the plant is dependent on them they should be removed, bagged and discarded for city garbage collection. The fourth D requires a bit of mnemonic assistance. It stands for double crosses. If canes are rubbing against each other, one of them should be cut back to the crown of the plant.

The four Ds will need to be supplemented with activities that may at times seem counterintuitive or contradictory. A conundrum is a riddle or a perplexing question - as is the case when we must decide where and on what side of a cane we will cut - the inward facing side or the outward facing side. Standard advice is to follow the ¼ inch rule. The ¼ inch rule tells us to cut ¼ inch above an outward facing bud. We are further advised to cut at a slant. However not all rose canes stand perpendicular to ground level and, if we encourage only the outward facing



'Campfire' rose

buds, the bush can get rather undisciplined in appearance. On the other hand, if we favour inward facing buds we may not be providing enough air circulation for the plant as a whole. Compromises are in order.

These compromises may seem confusing until we have our pruning shears in hand and confront a live rose bush head on. Then we learn on the job.

It may be easier to temporarily revert to some more straightforward cutting jobs. We can remove suckers from around the base of the rose bushes. Some roses, particularly the Gallicas, are very good at spreading. In the process they decrease the vigour of the "mother" bush and mask its intended form. Mind you, if you are attempting to stabilize a slope with plant material this can be a plus. Otherwise dig down around the base of each sucker and cut it out. They'll be back next year but that's another story. Another reason for deleting suckers is that commercially grown roses are frequently grown on rootstocks from other cultivars or from species roses. Left to their own devices, the rootstocks can completely overwhelm the grafted portion/scion of the bush.

Closely related to suckers are "pencil thins." These canes have a diameter of less than ¼ inch. No we don't carry a ruler with us as we prune. If the bush has too many "pencil thins" it will reduce blooming and divert energy into assisting these young whippersnappers.



Apothecary's rose (*Rosa gallica* var. *officinalis*)