

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

I have been honoured and flattered to be guest editor this year for *The Canadian Rose Annual*, especially as I am a novice in the presence of so many knowledgeable rosarians!

My husband Ismail and I have been growing roses for about seven years, originally inspired by the beautiful roses in Butchart Gardens while visiting my parents in Victoria, B.C. When we lived in Mississauga, Ontario, our rose garden grew (via trial and error, and many planting mishaps) to over 300 roses over five years. Our move to London, Ontario two years ago resulted in downsizing our garden to a more manageable 50 roses, what with our busy lifestyles and young son. We are moving to Montreal this fall, and hope to continue our rose gardening there, with a plan to take about 15 of our original and most hardy, disease-resistant roses with us.

My involvement with the Canadian Rose Society (CRS) began when we started to exhibit our roses grown in Mississauga, and our successes in Toronto, Hamilton and Southwestern Ontario brought us to the attention of the Society. I was thrilled to be asked to sit on the Board of Directors for the Society, and was able to take on the task of Regional Director with our move to London. Then, I became Webmaster for the CRS' Internet site and helped launch us into 'the electronic age'. Finally, this has led to my acting as guest editor for the *Annual*, to where I sit currently. It has indeed been a great challenge, and I have a new respect for editorship.

When I began soliciting articles early this year, I originally hoped to make this a 'growers' edition, and requested articles on root stock, spraying advice, present-day hybridizers, and the general direction of roses for the future. Happily, I've mostly succeeded. I've found it personally interesting to note that some directions for future rose development includes easy to grow, thornless, hardy roses, including groundcovers. With typical busy schedules these days, it is certainly an understandable direction, and one which we ourselves are headed.

Another underlying theme arose with historical roses, such as the article on the Scots Roses (by James Bowick), and the history of the Explorer rose, 'Jens Munk' ("A Hardy Dane" by Sarah Taylor). Perhaps as we look to the future, we must continue to be mindful of the past, and how roses have evolved.

I'm also pleased to be featuring two rose gardens in this issue: one the newly created and ambitious St. Albert Rose Garden in Alberta, and the other the world-renowned and award-nominated Montreal Botanical Garden in Quebec.

Some of the articles are by long-time contributors to the *Annual*, others are new to this venue. I met a few of the authors via mail, others (e.g. James Boswick, Lynnette Payne) via the award-winning gardening Internet site entitled 'ICanGarden'.

I hope that all readers will find something of interest in this issue, as there are articles from the highly technical, to the historical, practical, and even whimsical. As always, the opinions expressed are those of the authors, and not necessarily of the Canadian Rose Society, and all efforts have been made to maintain the integrity of the original articles with minimal editing. We appreciate all efforts written in praise of the rose, and encourage anyone who wishes to contribute to any publication of the CRS to send material for future consideration to Anne Graber, Secretary, Canadian Rose Society, c/o 10 Fairfax Crescent, Scarborough, Ontario M1L 1Z8, or Fax at (416) 757-4796. Feel free to write, even if you just want to comment about anything in this or other editions. You may also email the CRS President, Barbara Clarke at [crs@mirror.org](mailto:crs@mirror.org).

I must thank those who helped me prepare this edition of the *Annual*: Doreen Stanton (Past Editor); Barbara Clarke (CRS President); Ethel Freeman (past World Rose President); Anne Graber (CRS Secretary); and my proof-readers, Richard Chambers and Judith Roback of Toronto, and Denise Kennedy of Stouffville, Ontario. Also thanks goes to Patricia Cook for being able to scout out a last minute slide of the world's favourite rose, as well as numerous slides of the National Show; and of course to all the contributors in the journal, including Audrey Brisbane's excellent (as always) Clearing House. Last but not least, thanks to Ismail for being supportive, and motivating me at times when I had conflicting priorities; and to my brother Terry David, for helping me with some of my annoying computer glitches. Please accept my apologies if I've neglected to mention anyone who may have been instrumental to this year's *Annual*. I've appreciated all the advice, suggestions, and support which I've received in this endeavor.

Gloria Lauris Elkholy