

Growing Roses – April 1, 2015

We were privileged to have **André Poliquin**, an international rose expert, speak to us at the April monthly meeting. André's talk and photo presentation were very informative. André informed us about the three divisions of roses: Species, Old Garden roses, and the Modern roses which include hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda, English/Austin, miniature, hardy roses (Agriculture Canada) that have appeared since 1867.

Basic facts about growing roses:

- All roses need a minimum of 6 hours of direct sunlight per day, good ventilation, lots of moisture and heavy soil (not sand) with good drainage;
- 2 to 4 inches of mulch around the plants and watering early in the morning are important for pests and diseases prevention;
- Planting should be done after the roots of a rose bush have been wetted for at least 12 hours;
- Seasonal pruning can be done to remove dead, crossing and weak stems either in autumn or early spring, or both;
- Bushes, old garden roses, climbers and miniatures can be pruned by one-third;
- Modern roses can be pruned hard in autumn. To shape, prune to an external bud with 5-7 leaflets (a true bud);
- Pruning cuts should be done on the diagonal;
- Disbud after flowering to encourage production of new blooms;
- Most roses need winter protection from the wind and burning effects of the sun. White protective cones or rose blankets are ideal as they repel heat.



From right to left, André Poliquin (featured guest speaker), Lee Nickerson (GGG President) and Elaine Newton (long-time GGG member who graciously donated yellow roses!)