

Vancouver-area Rose Gardens Renovated For 2009 World Rose Legacy Project

When organizers set about accommodating some 800 international rosarians for the triennial World Rose Convention (June 18-24), and developing the first ever World Rose Festival (June 19-21), they decided it was necessary to commemorate the events by thanking the local communities that would be their gracious hosts.

A survey of Lower Mainland rose gardens turned up a few 'black spots,' either as a result of funding neglect, use of older and less-disease resistant varieties, and the important steps taken to reduce or eliminate the use of cosmetic pesticides. The Vancouver Rose Society knew that there was a better way. Their rose passion and hobby meant that they were well studied in varieties that could survive and thrive in the local climate, without chemical support.

Committee-member [Brad Jalbert](#), a Langley rose breeder and Select Roses nursery-owner, was dispatched to make contacts with gardeners and administrators and discuss renovation prospects. Jalbert, who also the World Rose [blogger](#) (worldrose2009.blogspot.com) and a whirling dervish of rose knowledge, quickly found ways to involve public gardens in what would become a massive rose renovation project.

By February 2008, Jalbert had enlisted support from [Weeks Roses USA](#), which jumped in with an offer of 350 plants; [Jackson and Perkins Roses USA](#) followed suit with 200 more. Kordes of Germany and Meiland of France each offered 400 or more. [Palatine Roses Canada](#), a small mail-order grower of Kordes roses, provided 30 new disease-free shrub roses. Meanwhile, Brad's own [Select Roses](#) offered 200 roses more.

With roses aplenty, Queen Elizabeth Park, VanDusen Garden, Stanley Park and UBC (Vancouver), Royal Roads University and Government House (Victoria), Queen's Park (New Westminster), and Burnaby Mountain Rose Garden, each subscribed to become part of this lasting legacy. The renovations are well underway, and the World Rose Convention and Festival are extremely pleased to have contributed to the continuing beautification efforts of the local communities.

For more information on the World Rose Convention, visit www.worldrose-vancouver2009.com. For details on the World Rose Festival, visit www.worldrosefestival.com. Communities wishing to participate with an educational or tourism exhibit should send a message to opportunities@worldrosefestival.com, or call (604) 984-6449.

