

2017 National Judge



Gaétan Deschênes

Garden Writer

Saint-Basile-le-Grand, QC

Alongside a thirty-year career at Radio-Canada as journalist, senior editor of information services and program director of the regional radio stations, Gaétan Deschênes has always been passionate about gardening and horticulture.

In particular, he has published 6 books on the subject, including *The History of horticulture in Quebec* and *Roses*. In addition to these, he regularly publishes feature articles in various specialized magazines. He has notably presented local French-speaking readers with coverage of dozens of private and public gardens from across Canada, the United States and Europe.

A true enthusiast, he also researched and hosted a series of 26 broadcasts on the *Évasion* channel. The programme, named *Secret Gardens*, highlighted the work and the love of plants of 26 gardeners from every corner of Québec.

Throughout his career, Gaétan Deschênes has also been an active member of the beautification committee of his town.

In this capacity, he has participated as judge for various landscaping contests in his town as well as in other communities of the region.

In 2008, he acted as a judge on the Canadian *Communities in Bloom* competition, which brought him to every province in Canada; in 2009, he did similar work for the Québec competition *Fleurons du Québec* and in France for the *Villes, Villages et Campagnes Fleuris* competition.