

## Kiwi fruit production

Canadian researchers at the federal government's Saanichton Research Station on Vancouver Island have been studying kiwi fruit since 1976 and have concluded that commercial production is possible on the island.

"Depending on the variety, we now are getting kiwi fruit ranging from 35 to 125 grams. Anything above the 60-gram size is commercially acceptable. Plus, they're really tasty, very juicy and of high quality," says Joe Molnar, director of the station.

Kiwi fruit is a zesty and firm lime-sized fruit that has recently grown in popularity.

Interest in developing kiwi fruit as a possible commercial crop followed a ban on the growing of commercial potatoes because of the golden nematode pest in Central Saanich.

At the time, researchers began test-growing broccoli, brussels sprouts, asparagus, over-wintering cauliflower, Jerusalem artichokes and kiwi fruit in an effort to help local farmers find alternative crops.

According to Joe Molnar, "the kiwi results have been the most promising".

From a farming point of view, it is a very hardy plant that is not difficult to cultivate in the milder areas of southern Vancouver Island. That part of Canada also has amenable soil conditions and enough sunny days for kiwi.

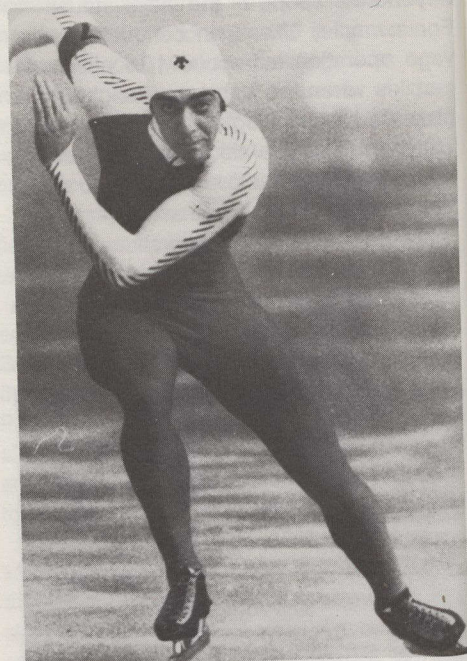
Dr. Molnar says the station now has enough experience in the growing of kiwi to advise local farmers. "We'd like to get local farmers growing kiwi and we'd be willing to help them do so," adds Dr. Molnar.

Before expanding too quickly into full scale production, it is still necessary to do a commercial evaluation. Dr. Molnar suggests that "what we need now is for private enterprise to decide it wants to invest some time, effort and money to see if kiwi can become one of Canada's new commercial crops".

Canada currently imports all its kiwi fruit from California and New Zealand. "If we could establish a viable kiwi industry here we could supply not only British Columbia but the whole of Canada," maintains Dr. Molnar.

## Speed skating winners

Gaetan Boucher, Canadian speed skater from St. Hubert, Quebec, has won the men's over-all title at the 1984 international sprinter meeting held in West Berlin.



Gaetan Boucher, winner of the 1984 international sprinter meeting in West Berlin.

It was the third time the winner of two Olympic gold medals at the fourteenth Winter Games (See *Canada Weekly*, March 7, 1984) had won the title, having placed first in 1977 and 1981.

Mr. Boucher, 20, also surpassed his own record for points in a meet below sea level. The previous mark was set at the world championships in 1983.

Mr. Boucher, began the second day of competition with a comfortable lead, despite having placed second in his specialty, the 1 000 metres. He won the 500 metres posting a time of 37.83 seconds — 0.05 of a second slower than his result on the first day. He also won the 1 000 metres with a time of 1:15.82.

Other participants on the men's team included Dinsi Gagnon of Ste Foy, Quebec, who finished thirty-first and Daniel Turcotte of Lachine, Quebec, who was thirty-ninth.

### Women's team

In the women's events, Sylvie Daigle, 22, of Sherbrooke, Quebec, won the over-all bronze medal after placing third in the 500 metres and fifth in the 1 000 metres. It was her best finish at an outdoor event.

Natalie Grenier, 20, of Ste Foy tied for seventh over-all and Nathalie Lambert of Montreal finished eleventh.

## Historic medals presented to war museum

The Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, recently acquired the war medals of Wing Commander William George Barker, VC, DSO, MC, one of Canada's most distinguished pilots of the First World War.

The important group of medals were presented by his two brothers Orval and Cecil Barker. They are being displayed with other items related to Wing Commander Barker's remarkable career — his wartime uniform and the fuselage of the *Sopwith Snipe* that he flew 66 years ago.

Commander Barker was born in Dauphin, Manitoba, in 1894. He served with the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War, flying *Sopwith Camels* and

*Snipes* in France and Italy.

On October 27, 1918, he single-handedly engaged in combat with about 60 enemy aircraft, four of which he shot down. He was gravely wounded, crash-landed in the British lines, and survived the war. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for this act.

During the war, he is credited with destroying a total of 50 enemy machines. For his service he received the Distinguished Service Order (twice), the Military Cross (three times), Italy's Silver Medal for Military Gallantry and the French Croix de Guerre. Commander Barker served with the post-war Royal Canadian Air Force until 1926. He died in 1930.



Medals belonging to William George Barker include: (left to right) Victoria Cross, Distinguished Service Order and bar, Military Cross and 2 bars, 1914-15 Medal, British War Medal, Victory Medal and Oak Leaf, Italian Medal first class, French Croix de Guerre and Star and Italian Medal second class.

National Museum of Man