

## Macs go to Britain

Grocery shoppers in Britain found Canadian McIntosh apples on the shelf this summer, as a result of work done by Agriculture Canada researchers in Nova Scotia.

Scientists at the Kentville Research Station discovered last year that slight changes in conventional controlled-atmosphere storage could keep a fall crop of apples for nine months instead of the normal six months and improve the quality of the apples.

Fruit growers in London and Simcoe, Ontario, used the new techniques in some of their apple storage rooms for the first time last fall. In May, the Norfolk Fruit Growers Association in Simcoe opened the first of two such rooms and found that the apples appeared and tasted almost as fresh as the day they were picked.

The Norfolk growers shipped 828 bushels of these apples to Britain in May and two more 828-bushel shipments were exported in early June.

Based on the Kentville research, the association had lowered the oxygen level in the two air-tight rooms to 1 per cent and raised the temperature to about 2.8 degrees Celsius (37 degrees Fahrenheit).

In conventional apple storage, temperatures are nearer to freezing and oxygen levels somewhat higher.

## Oxygen levels lowered

The Kentville scientists found that a combination of low temperatures and low oxygen levels injured the apples. But by raising the temperature a bit and lowering oxygen levels to 1 per cent, it was possible to maintain a better quality apple and retard the ripening process longer.

The Kentville system also enhances shelf life, giving apples a flavour and quality similar to just-picked fruit.

When the apples are removed from storage and put in cold storage at zero degree Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit), they regenerate some of the lost flavour.

The 32,000 bushels of specially-stored apples in Simcoe are earmarked for export as late as July, with Florida among the potential customers.

"The quality of the apples is superb and this is the first time ever we have had apples to export in June," said Keith Colver, general manager of the Norfolk association's facilities.

The low-oxygen storage rooms in London were opened in July and equally favourable results were obtained.

## University opens Asian centre

The University of British Columbia officially opened its new Asian Centre this summer.

The inauguration of the centre was attended by Senator Ray Perrault, British Premier William Bennett, Prince Noruhito Mikasa of Japan and Dr. Saburo Okito representing the Japanese government.

Occupying the building is the university's department of Asian studies, the Institute of Asian Research and the Asian Studies Library, comprising 250,000 volumes. There is also space for the Asian interests of the university's departments of music, fine arts and theatre. The public will also have access to the centre which includes an auditorium with seating for 220, a music studio and two exhibition galleries.

The idea of the Asian Centre originated as a centennial gift from Japan to the people of British Columbia. The girders supporting the high pyramid roof were donated by the Sanyo Corporation after their use at the 1970 World's Fair in Osaka. Funds for construction of the \$5.4-million centre came from the British Columbia government, the Canadian government, the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations, the Japanese World Exposition and a fund-raising campaign supported by both Asian and Canadian interests.

Vancouver architect Donald Matsuba



*Official opening of the new Asian Centre was an international affair with British Columbia Premier William Bennett (right) inviting Prince Norihito of Mikasa, a member of the royal family of Japan, to join him in ribbon-cutting ceremony.*

incorporated more than 47,000 square feet within the original Sanyo shell by developing four levels, two of them below ground level. The centre's roof based on traditional Japanese rural design, is topped by a symbolic pagoda-style chimney. The surrounding landscaping was designed by Professor Kannasuke Mori of Chiba University in Japan.



*University of British Columbia Botanical Garden employee Kunio Nunotani uses the Japanese art of "Hinoki" to give a compact appearance to one of hundreds of shrubs that have been planted around the university's new Asian Centre, a new campus landmark with a spectacular roof based on traditional Japanese rural design, surmounted by a symbolic pagoda-style chimney.*