

# A HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF RICHMOND AGRICULTURE

## ca 500 BC

– The Fraser River begins depositing silts to create a delta. The islands in the delta, including Richmond, contain unusually fertile soil.



## Pre-European settlement

– First Nations' people use the cranberry bogs of Lulu Island as a food source.

**1862** – The Hugh McRoberts family becomes the first European inhabitants of modern-day Richmond, establishing a house and farm on the northeastern corner of present-day Sea Island.

1850

**1859** – Lulu and Sea Islands are surveyed by Trutch. His surveys show significant areas of crabapple, cranberries and blueberries, and few forests.

**1864** – Sam Brighthouse purchases 697 acres on Lulu Island. Gradually, Lulu is divided into large and small tracts of farmland.

**1877** – The Manoah Steves family settles the area now known as Steveston.

1875

**1879** – Richmond is incorporated as the Corporation of the Township of Richmond. All of the first Councillors, and Hugh Boyd, the first warden, were farmers.

**1887** – Hugh Boyd is awarded a medal for the best wheat in the British Empire.

**1881** – Manoah Steeves imports Holstein cattle from Oregon.

**1882** – The steamship Alice begins making runs from Richmond to New Westminster, allowing farm produce easier access to New Westminster markets.

**1883** – The first road in Richmond, No. 2 Road, is completed.

**1890** – Bridges are constructed connecting Lulu and Sea Island to the mainland, allowing Richmond farmers to transport their produce to Vancouver, and to return with necessary goods.

**1894** – A major flood inundates Eboune and northern Lulu Island.

**1891** – Bylaws are passed authorising the dyking, draining, and improvement of East Richmond and Steveston.

1900

**1903** – 6,907 acres of the 12,897 privately-owned acres on Lulu and Sea Islands are under cultivation.

**1905** – Easterbrook Flour Mills opens.

**1906** – Canal construction begins on No.1 and No.3 Roads.

**1916** – Herbert McKim begins cultivating strawberries on a large scale. By 1925, he and his brothers establish Berrydale Farms.

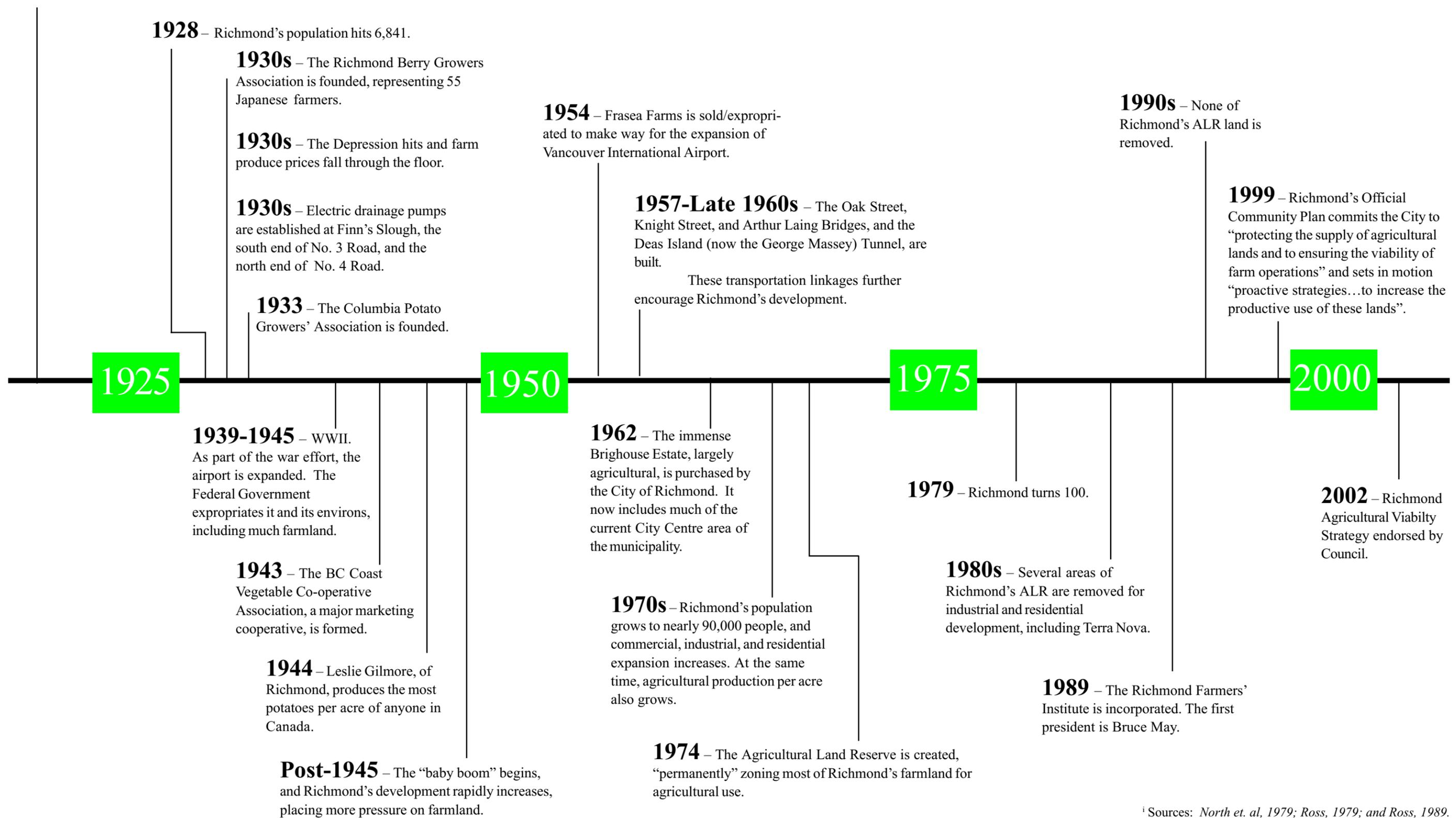
**1919-23** – Richmond wins several Provincial Fair, Vancouver Exhibition, and Victoria Exhibition awards for agriculture entries.

**1920s** – The Arthur Smith family arrives in East Richmond and begins to cultivate cranberries.

**1911** – Establishment of Richmond's first greenhouses, the Porter and Tomsett Greenhouses (cucumbers and tomatoes).

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**1922** – Frasea Farms, Richmond’s largest dairy, is established. From this time until WWII, many dairies are established in Richmond.



<sup>1</sup> Sources: North et. al, 1979; Ross, 1979; and Ross, 1989.