

# A Brief History of Agriculture in Vancouver

## *A New Millenium*

1945 - 2007

**1943** - Victory Gardens are created in Vancouver and by the end of the year there are 52,000 Victory Gardens in Greater Vancouver. The gardens produce food crops to help relieve food shortages felt by the Allied forces.



Harvest time

**1945** - After the end of World War II, the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides increases dramatically



Crop dusting

**1970** - Agriculture & Agri-food Canada establishes Plant Gene Resources of Canada to preserve the genetic diversity of crop plants, their wild relatives and other plants

**1980s** - 47.5 million tons of commercial fertilizer are used each year in the USA, compared to 1.8 million tons a hundred years ago.

**1981** - Population of metropolitan Vancouver: 1.21 million

**1882** - Due to technological advances, one farm producer can sustain 78 people (10 times the production rate of 1910)



Organic farm

**2006** - 15.7% of farms in the Vancouver area are organic but there is a general decline in the number of farms across Canada. With the population of Greater Vancouver at 2.18 million, who will grow our food in the future?

**1995** - Recombinant DNA techniques are used to create herbicide-resistant canola (*Brassica napus* var. *napus*), the first genetically modified plant for human consumption to be released commercially in Canada

**1992** - A poll reveals that 44% of Greater Vancouver households produce some of their own food



Canola field

1945

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2005