

# The Agricultural Revolution & the Grain Place EVOLUTION



by Ray Patacca, INTERPRETATION & EDUCATION MANAGER

**BREAD IS CALLED THE STAFF OF LIFE** because it has provided basic human sustenance and energy since the beginnings of agriculture 10,000 years ago.

Well, new energy has been breathed into the Grain Place located at the Farmpark Arena. The Grain Place was developed nearly 15 years ago to provide a space where we could interpret the process of getting grain from the field to the table. Since then, the Grain Place has undergone many changes. First located in a corner of the arena, it later shared a portion of the Well Bred Shed. With the renovation of the arena in 2000, the Grain Place acquired its own expanded area including a kitchen area for hands-on bread making, which added a new dimension to the program. A new floor surface in 2006 followed by a new paint scheme paved the way for our most recent addition, the development of an interpretive exhibit titled The Agricultural Revolution.

The Agricultural Revolution exhibit depicts the changes of power used in farming and tells the story of grain production and agriculture around the world. It illustrates the farming practices of the past and how things are done today. This new exhibit enhances our mission of understanding how we got to where we are in agriculture today and where we are going. The display of paintings and photographs of farming, accentuated by select artifacts such as farm hand tools, an ox yoke, horse collar and farm machinery shows the development of power and technology on the farm. Another feature of this display is

a mural of a John Deere combine at 50% scale. The next phase of this exhibit will begin to tell the story of how modern biotechnology is shaping the future of farming throughout the world.

Not only does the exhibit represent milestones in agriculture, it also represents a milestone for Farmpark. The exhibit concept was conceived and built by Farmpark staff. Christina Bellas and Stephanie Noel put their artistic design talents to use for the overall look of The Agricultural Revolution. Farmpark's operations department then built and painted the exhibit walls. The historical photographs and lettering were reproduced by Lake Metroparks' sign shop and the paintings were reproduced and framed by Lake County businesses. If you look closely at the man driving the combine, you might recognize the late James Jackson, a Farmpark operations staff member. And, last but not least, the Lake Parks Foundation provided financial support for the materials and services.

The next time you come to Farmpark, visit the Grain Place for an energizing adventure through agricultural history. Plus see a tribute to the men and women from the past that created our modern system of agriculture.



(Above) New exhibit, *The Agricultural Revolution*  
(Left) Painting the new John Deere mural by Stephanie Noel