

MacConnell went on to say most of his volunteer hours at Farmtown are spent on sign painting and various graphic design projects although he is happy to help out with other chores from time to time. MacConnell was born and raised in Stirling and still lives in the area.

"I painted my first sign when I was still in high school," MacConnell said proudly, "and shortly after that a friend needed a truck lettered. All of my signs are hand-lettered, just as they were back in the day. It not only looks better – it lasts longer."

MacConnell's artwork can be seen and admired in every corner of Farmtown Park and most especially throughout Heritage Village – itself a full-size reproduction of a small town streetscape from the early to mid-1900's.

"Whenever I step into that building," said MacConnell, "I honestly

feel like I have stepped back in time to when I was a boy here in Stirling. The attention to detail in every one of the storefronts is amazing and I'm very proud of my artistic contributions. And because all of my artwork is done by hand, I feel it has a truly authentic look... very much in keeping with the traditional appearance of signs of that era."

It's also a happy coincidence that MacConnell has the ideal name for some lighthearted wordplay and this aspect is highlighted whenever people make mention of his many creative contributions. It's often said by those in the know that, "Every sign you see at Farmtown is a work of Art..."

A Farmtown Park visit offers something of interest for all ages and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from the May long weekend through the end of September.