



September 2009

Dear Blacksmith,

The Saskatchewan Western Development Museum Curatorial Centre is pleased to offer the training course, *An Introduction To Blacksmithing*. We will hold the course four times in the months ahead:

4-6 December 2009
29-31 January 2010
12-14 February 2010
5-7 March 2010

Each course runs Friday evening 7-10 pm, Saturday 8 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 8 am to 4 pm at the WDM Curatorial Centre, 2935 Melville Street, Saskatoon. Time is reserved at the end of the day Sunday for clean-up.

Enclosed are registration forms. This is a popular course, with registration restricted to ten applicants each class. If you are anxious for a spot in one particular class, please return your registration form and fee immediately. We do not "hold" places. If you telephone to register, you must be prepared to pay with your Mastercard or Visa. By mail, please use the appropriate form, indicating your preference for December, January, February or March.

The registration fee, which includes GST and two lunch meals, is \$200.00. Please make your cheque payable to the Western Development Museum. WDM members receive a discount of \$15.00 for a total of \$185.00. A WDM membership application card is enclosed should you wish to become a Museum member.

If the course limit has been reached before your registration form has been returned, your name will be placed on a waiting list and your registration fee will be returned to you. To remind you again, places will not be reserved by telephone; telephone registrations are not accepted unless Visa or Mastercard are used.

If you must cancel your registration for any reason, cancellations will be subject to an administrative charge. Cancellations received less than three working days before the course begins are not eligible for a refund.

People interested in attending the blacksmith course should possess basic shop skills, be familiar with common hand tools and know how to use a bench grinder. Be prepared for smoke and blisters! Your general health should be good because you will be on your feet for two full days and swinging a hammer for a good part of both days. If you are not very active,

you may wish to exercise your shoulders and arms beforehand, particularly your hammer arm. Participants have complained of sore and stiff muscles from the strain of two days of hammering. If you have allergies to smoke, you may wish to reconsider attending this class. Gloves, proper work boots and protective clothing are necessary. Some safety glasses are provided. Hearing protection is available. Safe working practises and a safe working environment are of utmost concern.

The course is designed as an introduction to forge work including the use of blacksmith tools, shaping hot metal, heat treating and forge welding. It is taught by former WDM employee, Rick Dixon, with assistance from members of the Western Canadian Blacksmith Guild. If you have questions about your registration, please call Leslee Newman or Kristine Montgomery at (306) 934-1400.

Please complete and return one of the enclosed forms, with payment of the registration fee and appropriate Museum membership fees if desired. Confirmation of registration, a map showing the WDM Curatorial Centre and a list of necessary clothing and equipment will be issued to you upon receipt of your registration fee.

The first evening provides everyone an opportunity to get to know one another. You will be given an orientation to the course and to the modern world of blacksmithing. The instructors will tour you through the shops, introducing you to the blacksmith shop, tools and equipment. You will not begin work on the forge until the next day. Because we have found that participants are reluctant to stop for lunch, we have arranged that the noon meal be provided at the Curatorial Centre by the Western Development Museum Boomtown Cafe. The price of the Saturday and Sunday lunches is included in your registration fee. Coffee is provided throughout the course as part of the course fee. Soft drinks are available at \$1/each.

Blacksmith participants from out-of-town have tried a variety of accommodations. A list from *Tourism Saskatoon* is enclosed. Please make your own accommodation arrangements.

The Western Development Museum is very proud to play a role in the preservation of the skill of blacksmithing. We look forward to having you join our training course.

Yours truly,

Leslee Newman
Education/Extension Coordinator

Kristine Montgomery
Education/Extension Assistant