

IMPORTANT INFORMATION KEEP THIS LETTER

September 2009

Dear Wheelwright,

When and where can you learn to repair a wooden buggy wheel?

The next **Saskatchewan Western Development Museum** training course, **An Introduction To Wheelwrighting**, will be held for seven days, beginning at 8 am on Saturday, **January 9, 2010** and continuing each day until Friday, **January 15, 2010** at noon. There is also an optional introductory evening on **Friday, January 8, 2010** from 7-9 pm. All times are Central Standard Time.

The class is taught by two veteran wheelwrights: Roy Musgrove of Saskatoon and Doran Degenstein from Lethbridge, Alberta.

The course is held at the **Curatorial Centre of the Saskatchewan Western Development Museum, 2935 Melville Street**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Please note that this is not the Saskatoon Western Development Museum which is located at 2610 Lorne Avenue South in Saskatoon. The Curatorial Centre is the provincial headquarters of the WDM in Saskatchewan. If you travel by taxi, this is important information. You don't want to be dropped off in the middle of January at the wrong place. The Curatorial Centre is two blocks south of the Museum.

Neither the Museum nor the Curatorial Centre is within walking distance of any hotels, motels or bed & breakfasts, so if you are flying into Saskatoon, plan to include taxi fare or car rental in your expenses. The city transit buses do not run to this area on a regular basis, and their schedule does not coincide with the course schedule.

What does the wheelwright course teach and what do you need to know beforehand?

This course teaches, in hands-on format, the steps of assembling and repairing wooden buggy wheels. Do not expect to carve a hub, spokes or felloes. You can expect to learn, through active participation, to repair and assemble the ready-made parts of wooden wheels. Most of the instruction is given for buggy wheels, but occasionally, work on heavier wagon wheels is done. We do not work on automobile wheels.

People interested in attending the wheelwright seminar should:

1. possess a basic knowledge of woodworking
2. be able to use a variety of hand and power tools
3. preferably have some welding experience.

The training approach relies heavily on participation and there is very little classroom time.

Can you bring your own buggy wheels to repair and what about parts?

Participants may bring four of their own wheels for repair (or more if you let us know in good time). If replacement parts are needed, the parts specifications must be received by the Museum **no later than November 1, 2009** so that the necessary parts can be obtained. The instructors provide all the parts and will bill participants for the parts used. The Western Development Museum does not keep an inventory of wheel parts.

2009 prices for spokes and felloes, not including tax, were:

Democrat/Buggy	Spokes:	\$ 3.50-\$5.00
	Felloes for two wheels:	\$50.00-\$75.00
Heavier Wagon	Spokes:	\$ 6.00-\$10.00
	Felloes for two wheels:	\$80.00-\$150.00

Prices may vary depending on supplier's costs.

It is important that you provide accurate parts measurements before you attend the course. This will ensure that the instructors have ample opportunity to order and take delivery of the parts you will need to refurbish your wheels. **Measure with a caliper to guarantee accurate measurements.** The registration form indicates where measurements must be made.

What about tools?

Participants are asked to provide their own work boots, work wear, and some form of eye and ear protection. WDM safety regulations require that appropriate protection be used when operating power tools. To facilitate the work involved, you are also asked to bring along some of your own tools, such as a ball-pein hammer, pin punch, medium sized cold chisel, tape measure, portable work bench, heavy duty extension cord, jig saw or reciprocating saw and a sharp hand saw. Please mark your name clearly on all tools.

We make a limited number of wheelwright tool sets available for purchase at each course. The price of a set is about \$300 Canadian. These tool sets are ordered from the United States, so American participants will prefer to purchase them directly from the supplier. For Canadians, however, the WDM places the order and makes the arrangements for bringing them across the border, so we save you considerable bother.

What does it cost and how can you register?

Enclosed is a registration form. This is a popular course so please return your registration form as soon as possible before **15 December 2009**. Many people have been disappointed when their registrations have not been accepted because the class has filled. Prompt registration avoids disappointment. **The registration fee, which includes GST, a noon meal every day, a banquet and coffee breaks, is \$400.00. WDM members receive a discount of \$15 for a total of \$385.00.** The fee includes the cost of written materials, including a copy of Wheelmaking: Wooden Wheel Design and Construction edited by Don Peloubet or Wheelwrighting: A Modern Introduction by Bruce and Joyce Morrison.

Please send in your registration form promptly. If sufficient participants register early, we will mail a class list to each of you. This is especially important for those of you travelling from outside Saskatoon who may wish to share travel or accommodation with another participant. Also, the course is a popular one and in recent years we have not been able to accommodate everyone who has wished to attend.

What will each day be like?

The course will begin with an informal get-together on **Friday evening at 7 pm**. This event is optional, since it can be difficult to locate the WDM Curatorial Centre in the dark. It does provide participants with a chance to meet and get to know one another's interests and background. Plus, it affords an opportunity to arrange for sharing accommodation if you choose. It also provides a tour of the Curatorial Centre and a look at the 35,000 artifacts in storage. We encourage you to attend.

Course work begins the next morning at 8 am. You will work each day until 6 pm, with a half-hour lunch break at midday and clean-up time at the end of each day. There are two instructors for this course, so students will divide into small work groups on Saturday, spending the morning with one instructor who demonstrates a wheel repair from start to finish. Each instructor has unique perspectives so there is some variation in the presentations. As you begin to work on your own wheels, or on wheels supplied at the course, you will have ample opportunity to study and assess the variables and choose the techniques best suited to you.

Learning at the course relies on you and the work you do. If you do not have wheels of your own, you must work on the wheels supplied or lend a hand to another participant. You can work by yourself or with a partner. That is your choice. As for any new skill, practise makes perfect.

There are other learning opportunities sometimes offered throughout the week including a talk by the WDM researcher on information available in the WDM Library, a demonstration of steam bending and videos shown on a number of related topics like wagon trekking.

You will work in a heated shop so outdoor work wear is not necessary. The floor is concrete however, so be sure to bring comfortable footwear. Perhaps a change of boots might also help to alleviate fatigue. We do not supply floor mats since you will not be standing in one position for long.

Each day, lunch will be brought to the Curatorial Centre by staff of the Saskatoon WDM Boomtown Café. Complimentary coffee is available throughout the course, and soft drinks are available for \$1/tin. There is a water cooler in the shop.

Usually on Thursday evening of the course we hold a "graduation supper" at the Boomtown Café in the Saskatoon WDM, so this one evening meal is provided with the cost of registration.

Breakfast and supper are on your own. For these meals, if participants choose, they can organize get-togethers at local cafes so that there is time to talk about the course, and to share tips about pleasure driving, buggy restoration and other topics of interest. Because so many participants come from outside Saskatoon, we encourage participants to organize some opportunities to get together so that evenings are not too long.

What else should I bring?

Many participants are involved in restoring and driving vintage vehicles. If you have pictures or photo albums please bring them along because others are always interested in what you are doing. Please feel free to share information about any of your hobbies which you think would interest others.

Photographs are taken throughout the course by WDM staff. A class photograph is provided with a certificate acknowledging your attendance at the course. Still photography is permitted so you may want to pack your camera.

Bring a coffee mug or water bottle if you wish.

What is Saskatoon like in January?

Somehow we always seem to schedule the wheelwright course for the coldest week of the year! The average temperature is somewhere around -30 Celsius, (about 25 below Fahrenheit if you are American). If you are driving and you come from a place where no block heaters are needed, you will definitely need one here! Participants are provided complimentary plug-ins for their cars during the course.

Where do we suggest you stay?

There is no accommodation in Saskatoon which is within walking distance of the WDM Curatorial Centre. However, Saskatoon is small enough that no place is farther than a 15-20 minute drive away from the Curatorial Centre which is at the south edge of town on the east side of the South Saskatchewan River.

Wheelwright participants in other courses have tried a variety of accommodations. Please note that you must make your own accommodation arrangements. If enough of you register early we will send out a class list so that you can make connections for shared accommodation. For those coming in by plane, it is convenient to be staying where other participants have registered so you have someone with whom to drive back and forth.

We have enclosed a *Tourism Saskatoon* list of accommodations and map of Saskatoon. The Curatorial Centre is located on the southern limits of Saskatoon. Probably the quickest drive is from a newer hotel, the *Travel-Inn Resort*, on the south-east edge of Saskatoon. Other hotels and motels are located in the west end, the north end, the east end and in the central downtown area. None are farther than a 20 minute drive. From the west end, travel east on 22nd Street to the Idylwyld Freeway, then south to the Circle Drive exit. From the north end, for participants arriving by car on highways 16 and 11, or by plane, the route to the Curatorial Centre is south on Idylwyld Drive Freeway to the Circle Drive exit. The freeway takes you straight from the north end, through the centre of town, to the south end. From the east side, for participants arriving on highways 5, 16 or 11, most accommodations are on 8th Street East. The route to the Curatorial Centre is straight west on 8th Street to Lorne Avenue, south on Lorne to Melville Street. From downtown Saskatoon, the route is south on the Idylwyld Freeway to the Circle Drive exit.

Can I bring my spouse?

If your partner is interested in coming to Saskatoon, there are many opportunities around the city for sight-seeing. We have enclosed information from *Tourism Saskatoon* outlining places to visit around the city. The Western Development Museum *1910 Boomtown* is a place we highly recommend.

Partners are able to visit you occasionally but we do not allow constant attendance during the course. That would not be fair to the participants who paid to attend. This also applies to visiting friends and relatives. A short one-time visit is fine; a lengthy stay is not permitted.

If a visit coincides with lunch break, there is usually enough food for all. Please check with WDM staff before issuing any invitations. The cost for each extra meal is \$7.

What else can you learn at the WDM?

Following **An Introduction to Wheelwrighting**, the Museum offers a class in **Buggy Seat Upholstery**. This is a three day course, January 17-19, 2010. Information is included with this package in case you wish to register. The WDM also offers four introductory weekend classes in blacksmithing. Please call if you need more information on blacksmithing courses.

What should you do now?

If you are interested in attending **An Introduction to Wheelwrighting**, please complete and return the enclosed form, with payment of the registration fee, before **15 December 2009**. Make cheques or money orders in Canadian funds payable to the Saskatchewan Western Development Museum, or telephone with your Mastercard or Visa numbers. Confirmation of registration will be issued to you upon receipt of your registration form. Please return your registration form promptly.

Since our first course in 1975, we have trained more than 300 people from almost every Canadian province and from the United States. We have trained museum workers, pleasure drivers, buggy restorers and hobbyists. A few women have taken the course. In 34 years of offering **An Introduction To Wheelwrighting**, we have met many interesting people and made countless new friends. We look forward to meeting you. You can look forward to learning new skills and making new friends too. Generally the people who take our training class are interested in many of the same things and seem to make firm friendships through the course.

The Saskatchewan Western Development Museum is proud of the role we play in preserving the heritage trade of wheelwrighting.

Sincerely,

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Education/Extension Coordinator

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Mail enclosures: Registration form
WDM membership request form
Saskatoon accommodation guide
WDM and Saskatoon information