

IMPORTANT INFORMATION KEEP THIS LETTER

October 2011

Dear Wheelwright,

Where can you learn to repair a wooden buggy wheel?

You can learn to rebuild wooden wheels 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 WDM Curatorial Centre is two blocks south of the Western Development Museum.

The Curatorial Centre is not 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 schedules do not coincide with the course schedule.

When can you learn to repair a wooden buggy wheel?

A typical week follows along somewhat like this, although exceptions can and do occur:

Friday	January 13, 2012	7-9 pm	Introductory meet-and-greet evening
Saturday	January 14, 2012	8 am - 5 pm	Instruction on class wheels
Sunday	January 15, 2012	8 am - 5 pm	Project work
Monday	January 16, 2012	8 am - 5 pm	Project work
Tuesday	January 17, 2012	8 am - 5 pm	Evening meal and tour of Museum
Wednesday	January 18, 2012	8 am - 5 pm	Could have outdoor fire for tiring
Thursday	January 19, 2012	8 am - 5 pm	Could have outdoor fire for tiring
Friday	January 20, 2012	8 am - noon	Finish up projects
		12:30 - 3 pm	Shop clean-up - not optional
		3 pm	Certificates awarded
		noon - 5 pm	Finish shop clean-up

So that's **January 13-20, 2012** to learn to repair and rebuild wooden wheels for buggies and wagons at the WDM Curatorial Centre in Saskatoon. All times are Central Standard Time.

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 2011**. Prompt registration avoids disappointment. Registration can be done by mail or telephone.

The registration fee, which includes GST is \$400. WDM members receive a discount of \$15 for a total of \$385. The fee includes a copy of Wheelmaking: Wooden Wheel Design and Construction edited by Don Peloubet or Wheelwrighting: A Modern Introduction by Bruce and Joyce Morrison. It also includes eight meals - a noon meal every day, one evening meal at the Museum and coffee breaks.

Photographs are taken throughout the course by WDM staff. A class photograph is provided and will be mailed or emailed to you. You may bring your own camera for photos.

You will receive a certificate acknowledging your attendance at the course. Certificates will be awarded at the coffee break on Friday afternoon. **You must be in attendance to receive your certificate.** No certificates will be available for pick-up, nor will your certificate be mailed to you.

Who teaches the course?

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

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, turn spokes or bend felloes. You can expect to learn, through active participation, to repair and assemble the ready-made parts for 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 virtually no classroom time. Certificates of course completion will be awarded at 3 pm on the last day. You must be present to receive your certificate. It cannot be picked up or mailed at a later date.

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. Most participants can comfortably complete four wheels during the course. Some have completed more than that, others fewer.

If replacement parts are needed, the parts specifications should be received **no later than November 1, 2011** so that the necessary parts can be obtained.. Randy Wolfe of *Wolfe Wagons* near Saskatoon provides the parts and will bill you for the parts you need. The Western Development Museum Curatorial Centre does not sell parts.

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

Democrat/Buggy	Spokes:	\$ 3.00-\$4.85
	Felloes for two wheels:	\$46.00-\$72.00
Heavier Wagon	Spokes:	\$ 5.00-\$9.20
	Felloes for two wheels:	\$74.00-\$150.00

Prices may vary depending on supplier's costs.

It is important that you provide accurate parts measurements before you attend the course. **Measure with a caliper to guarantee accurate measurements.** The registration form indicates where measurements must be made. Please call Randy Wolfe directly to discuss your parts measurements and order. Call (306) 933-4763 or email Randy at rwolfe@sasktel.net.

What about tools and things to bring?

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, heavy duty extension cord, jig saw or reciprocating saw and a sharp hack saw. We will send you a Tool List with your confirmation. Please mark your name clearly on all tools.

The iron tires for light wheels are heated on an indoor forge. For heavy wagon wheels, the iron tires are heated on a fire outdoors. Bring warm workwear for working outdoors in January. The smoky smell will linger so you won't want to work in the coat you plan to wear out to supper.

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 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 5 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.

Sometimes there are other learning opportunities offered throughout the week including 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 except for the outdoor tiring. 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 from the Saskatoon WDM's 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.

On an evening during the course, we offer an opportunity for supper at the Boomtown Café and a tour of the Saskatoon WDM. This one evening meal is provided with the cost of registration. All other evening meals are on your own.

Breakfast is also 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.

Friday afternoon is reserved for clean-up. There is no other museum that we know that opens its shops for training like this. Please respect the shops and tools supplied. End-of-day clean-ups are expected from Saturday to Thursday. Willingness to pitch in on a thorough clean-up on Friday afternoon is a prerequisite of this course.

Friday afternoon at 3 pm is reserved for awarding certificates. You must be present to receive your certificate.

What else should you 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.

Still photography is permitted, so you may want to pack your camera. Bring a coffee mug and a water bottle please.

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 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. However, the route to the Curatorial Centre is under construction. We will provide an up-to-date map with your Confirmation letter. Construction updates will also be available on our website nearer to the course date.

Can you bring your spouse?

If your partner is interested in coming to Saskatoon, there are many opportunities around the city

for sight-seeing. 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?

Before the wheelwright course, the Museum offers a class in **Buggy Seat Upholstery**. This is a three day course, January 11-13, 2012. 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 2011**. 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 36 years, 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,

Leslee Newman
Education/Extension Coordinator

Kristine Montgomery
Education/Extension Assistant

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