

Workshop: Harnessing true Horsepower: intro

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to working with farm horses.

This workshop is an introduction to the single horse in harness, and is designed for those who would like to be exposed to the world of the horse in harness and the skill of driving a horse, both novices and existing horse owners. Participants will get a rewarding day full of practical advice and direct hands-on experience.

We will start the day at the Eco Centre for some theory and procedures: general health care, feed, feet, stabling, the right pasture. We'll cover the difference between harnessing for work and for fun, and discuss cos issues and other points including safety.

Next, we'll move to the nearby Bockus homestead for some hands-on experience. Each participant will get to experience the fun and excitement of driving a single horse and learn some basic ground driving techniques. If enough time left, we'll end the day with discussing some of the finer points that will be covered in the next workshop.

Please note: no more than 10 participants so each will have enough time with the horse. Each participant will receive a certificate upon completion of the course.

Co-ordinator: Larry Bockus

A Forestry graduate of the of Lakehead University, Larry has spent most of his working days outside: as bushworker, forest technician, Utility Forester and chain saw instructor – anywhere but at a desk.

Over the years Larry also learned the homestead skills that seemed all but forgotten; it proved the perfect fit for his passion for self-sufficient living in harmony with the earth. Larry started using a single work horse in 1981 for logging and clearing land, then changed to light team horses and ultimately heavy draft horses. Since 1986 all of the his horses have been trained at the Bockus homestead – and very successfully so: he has won more prizes and awards than can be mentioned in this space.

Larry uses horse for all farm work: logging, making firewood, hay-, potato- and vegetable production, plowing, cultivation, skidding, pulling carts and sleighs, spreading manure and general chores – and more. Most of his horse-drawn equipment Larry designed and built at the farm, some is restored vintage machinery. Larry doesn't own a tractor, his horses do a better job; they go where tractors cannot go, are more rewarding to work with, don't burn fossil fuel – and provide free manure.