

GAGGLE

APPEL AUX COLLABORATEURS(TRICES) / CALL FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Le *Leveller* s'efforce de produire du contenu en français dans son journal, et cherche des collaborateurs(trices) qui pourraient aider à étendre l'envergure des *Sans-Culottes*, l'encart du *Leveller*. Contactez-nous à gaggle.theleveller@gmail.com pour soumettre des articles, photographies, caricatures et autres pour notre quotidien spécial du Forum social des peuples. Prenez part à la presse écrite alternative!

The *Leveller* strives to produce French language content in its journalistic efforts, and is looking for people to help expand the current insert in our newspaper - les *Sans-Culottes*. Get in touch with us at gaggle.theleveller@gmail.com to submit material to our special PSF daily broadsheet and get involved with alternative print media!

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MASS RALLY DISRUPTS THURSDAY RUSH HOUR IN OPENING DAY OF PSF

On Thursday, a large contingent of protesters marched over the Portage Bridge from Quebec. It met an even larger crowd en route to Parliament Hill from the Canadian War Museum. Indigenous youth and elders led

both marches as they became one, followed by members from dozens of different unions, social movements, and environmental groups. An estimated 2,000 people, including about ten stilt walkers, filled the lawn in front of the House of

Commons to hear speeches from Harsha Walia, Hassan Yussuff, Algonquin grandmothers, and numerous others. Despite the rain, spirits were high in an electrified atmosphere surrounding the first day of the Peoples' Social Forum.

GAZA'S ARK AND THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA COALITION ADVOCATE FOR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

By Miriam Katakawazi

Two organizations, Gaza's Ark and the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC), co-hosted a workshop at the Peoples' Social Forum in Ottawa on Thursday.

The FFC is an international civil society campaign to help end the blockade of Gaza, which has been ongoing since 2007. The grassroots group said they are trying to build lasting peace in the region by advocating for Palestinians to have the right to full freedom of movement.

Though the workshop focused largely on the sea blockade of the Gaza strip, members of the FFC and Gaza's Ark stressed that the sea blockade is only one facet of the economic situation faced by people in the Gaza strip.

"It's not simply [about] breaking the sea blockade," said David Heap, a member of Gaza's Ark. "It's [about] affirming the very basic right of freedom of movement for Palestinians in Gaza and throughout Palestine, the right to freedom of movement as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

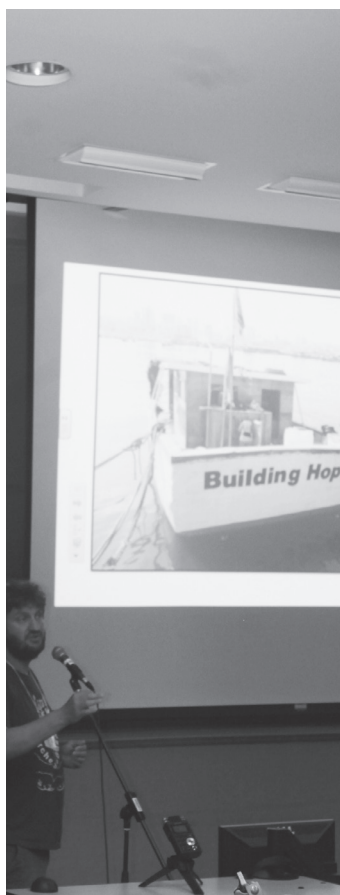
"While we focus on the sea blockade, we are really talking about freedom of movement," he added.

The workshop also focused on the need for Palestine to have sovereignty over its own economy, for its own stability and for the stability of the region.

Heap said that people from across the world have been buying products from the region to show their confidence in the Palestinian economy in Gaza.

"Their understanding, our understanding is that the Palestinians of Gaza, don't want to, don't need to, ought not to, depend on humanitarian aid," he said. "Because they do have the potential to have a sovereign and vibrant economy, which they had before, if they just had their freedom of movement."

The Freedom Flotilla plans to sail again to Gaza later this year, which is the United Nations' International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.



PEOPLES' RADIO DES PEUPLES



* Faites du bénévolat à la Radio des peuples! La station est située sur la terrasse du UCU Jock Turcot, près de la bibliothèque Morisset. Nous diffusons tous les jours sur les ondes pirates et sur l'Internet, de 9h à 20h. Inscrivez-vous pour animer une émission ou pour soumettre un projet : <http://goo.gl/LxugG9>. Contribuez à nos bulletins de nouvelles, diffusés à chaque jour de 17h à 18h (ANG) et de 18h à 19h (FRN).

* Volunteer to engineer or host at Peoples' Radio. The studio will be located outside on the terrace of UCU (Jock Turcot University Centre) near Morisset Library and the broadcast will be live online and over pirate radio, from 9am - 8pm (EST) every day. Sign-up to host your own show on Peoples' Radio or contribute content using this form: <http://goo.gl/LxugG9>. Join the French or English teams hosting live coverage with panels, interviews and short pre-produced content daily on Peoples' Radio from 5pm - 6pm (ENG) & 6pm - 7pm (FRN).

Masse Critique des peuples People's Critical Mass



Une masse critique spéciale pour souhaiter la bienvenue de la **Forum social des peuples** à Ottawa!
forumsocialdespeuples.org

A special critical mass to welcome the **People's Social Forum** to Ottawa!
peoplessocialforum.org

Le vendredi, 22 août | Friday, August 22nd

Rendez-vous à 17 h 45 au
Parc de la confédération
(coin Elgin et Laurier)

Faites du vélo avec un grand groupe, ralentissez le trafic et revendiquez vos droits en tant que cycliste.

Meeting at 5:45pm at
Confederation Park
(Elgin & Laurier)

Ride in the streets with a group, slow down the traffic and reclaim your right to the road as a cyclist.



THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING: NAOMI KLEIN AT THE PEOPLES' SOCIAL FORUM

By Francella Fiallos

Noted activist and writer Naomi Klein addressed a large audience in the Peoples' Square on Thursday to promote her new book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*.

Quebec student movement leader and *Ricochet* contributor Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois introduced Klein in French, highlighting her involvement in a documentary about the economic crisis in Argentina.

Klein began her talk by recalling a similar convergence held in Quebec City in 2001. There, activists prevented the passage of the Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement.

"It's taken too long for us to come together once again," she said.

Klein addressed the problems with the current economic structure, which privileges

people in positions of power over those with little or no resources. She calls this system "somebodies versus nobodies and nowhere."

She also said that, since the Harper government has ignored and downplayed the historical legacy of resource colonization which is the basis of settler activity in the territory known as Canada, this rapacious activity has continued in the form of dependence on fossil fuels which in turn negatively affects the most vulnerable people in the country.

However, this doesn't mean that there is no space, organized or not, for action.

"The simple truth is that the hope of humanity rests in the hands of the poorest people in the world," she said.

One of Klein's proposed correctives to global inequality is the establishment of a guaranteed

minimum income. This would have the dual effect of empowering the poor and liberating working Canadians from the temptation to work in financially lucrative but environmentally destructive industries.

But she noted that making such changes involve overwhelming challenges and "break so many [established] rules at once."

Audience members were invited to participate in a question-and-answer period. Journalist Firoze Manji challenged Klein on her use of the phrase 'extraction industries' and instead asked her to consider fossil fuel development in terms of "amputation."

Klein commended both organizers and attendees of the Peoples' Social Forum by challenging the "infrastructure of death" and instead "bringing us together to bring life."



REVIVING THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT IN CANADA

By Miriam Kařawazi



As part of the Peoples Social Forum (PSF), a workshop was held to discuss the revival of a vibrant Canadian anti-war movement.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) in Vancouver held the workshop. Thomas Davies, the group's co-founder, travelled to Ottawa to run the workshop and to build alliances among anti-war activists.

Though Davies' workshop wasn't the only one at the PSF which openly criticized the Canadian state and the Harper government's stance on war, it was unique because of its focus on building a powerful, sustained, and nationwide anti-war movement.

The need for such a movement is so dire, Davies said, that the entire social forum could focus on the human costs and consequences of war and occupation and the need to organize against what has become an accepted fact of life.

"Unfortunately people are getting used to [war]," Davies said. "We expect war, we expect occupation and now it's commonplace that countries are invaded."

On Feb. 15, 2003, just before the Iraq war, the world witnessed the largest co-ordinated international peace protest in history. Protests took place in over 70 Canadian cities and towns -- in some places, people gathered despite temperatures below -35 °C. Despite

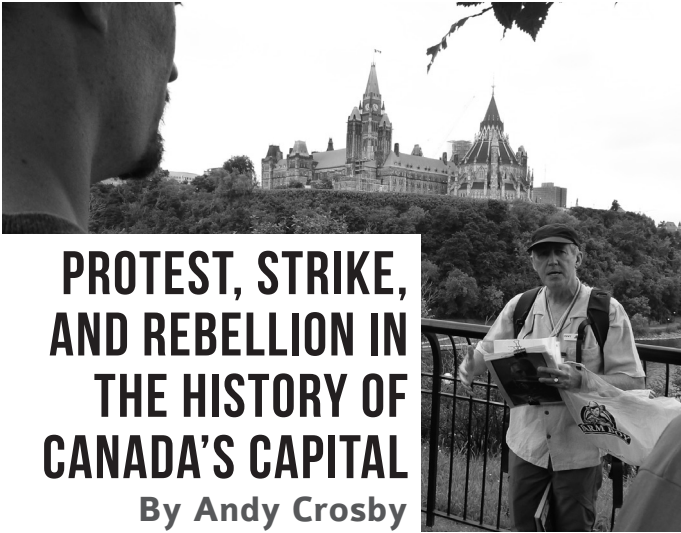
the show of solidarity across the globe, and the huge Canadian turnout, Davies said that it has proven difficult to keep up the momentum, in years since, "it's been a struggle to try and organize anti-war actions," he said.

In order to reawaken the anti-war movement in Canada, Davies argued that people must organize consistent actions. The MAWO organizes one anti-war rally on the last Saturday of every month in Vancouver. The key to organizing against war and occupation, he added, is to build campaigns that engage communities, effectively using advertisements, rallies, forums, and petitions.

Despite the difficulties of organizing a sustained movement, Davies is optimistic about MAWO Vancouver. "We're a small anti-war coalition, we have absolutely no funding from anywhere but we feel that we have been able to do a lot. This is something we really built from the grassroots, built ourselves," he said.

Davies added that the anti-war sentiment among people in Canada is large, but untapped. Canadians, he said, "really need to find different ways to work with other groups to do more."

"We can't be picky and choosy right now. Building an anti-war movement is not about picking and choosing. It's about finding a common demand that many people can relate to and moving forward with that demand," he said.



PROTEST, STRIKE, AND REBELLION IN THE HISTORY OF CANADA'S CAPITAL

By Andy Crosby

The Peoples' Social Forum kicked off Thursday with a number of events, including a radical history walking tour of Ottawa.

Brian McDougall, a self-described veteran union activist lead a group from the National Gallery to Parliament Hill, highlighting hundreds of years of struggle against colonialism and capitalism in what is now known as the nation's capital.

At Major's Hill Park overlooking the Ottawa River, McDougall described the history of Indigenous-settler relations in the region. "The Algonquin Ottawa River watershed, larger than the area of Great Britain, was the centre of the super highway for the entire continent," he said. The timber trade heightened European settlement to the area and increased encroachment on Algonquin lands. As early as 1770, the Algonquin people began the "longest protest in Canadian colonial history" against settler trespassing by filing complaints and sending petitions to colonial officials. Almost 250 years later, Canada has usurped most Algonquin territory prompting further protests, blockades, occupations, and a land claims process.

The walking tour continued to the site of the mouth of the Rideau Canal on the banks of the Ottawa River. The construction of the military canal sparked a series of strikes, protests, and riots. McDougall noted that the canal's construction during the period of 1820-1830 marked a shift in labour relations in the colony as canal workers went on strike three times before British troops were called in to quell unrest resulting from miserable working conditions. However, once the strikes stopped, the riots began, which McDougall attributed to the social and economic conditions of the Irish labourers, the "poorest of the poor" who squatted in a shantytown known as Corktown. McDougall shared racist cartoon caricatures of the Irish

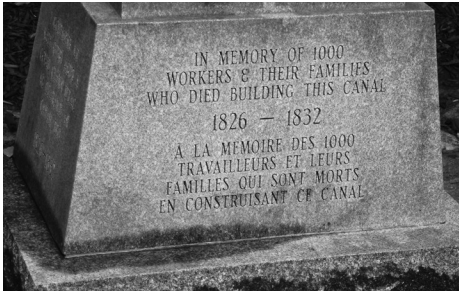
disseminated by the British at the time, one showing a caged man with a caption, "the most recently discovered wild beast." The 500-year history of British occupation of Ireland helped set the context for five riots happening over a six year period.

A short walk along the canal led to the ruins of Sapper's Bridge, the historic crossing point between wealthy Uppertown and impoverished Lowertown. Sapper's Bridge played an important role in two significant events in Ottawa's history: the Shiner's War and the Stoney Monday riot.

The Shiner's War between 1835-1837 saw hundreds of organized Irish attempting to muscle their way into the timber trade after the Rideau Canal was completed. This led to widespread conflict with French-Canadians; what McDougall described as "vicious open gang warfare." He said the Shiner's War postponed the rebellions that hit Upper and Lower Canada in the late 1830s by one decade in Bytown, now known as Ottawa, due to very poor relations between the Irish and French. However, relations improved in the years that followed and similar political and class relations unfolded in Bytown, which culminated in the Stoney Monday riot on Sept. 17, 1849 after Tories from Uppertown crashed a public meeting in Lowertown. Two days later, a civil war was narrowly averted by British troops who occupied Sapper's Bridge with fixed bayonets to separate a force of 1,000 from Lowertown with three cannons and a force of 1,700 from Uppertown with nine cannons.

The tour then continued to Parliament Hill where McDougall discussed various other strikes and protests in Ottawa's history.

McDougall launched a new company, Peoples' History Walking Tours of Ottawa, which will provide various radical history tours twice a week until November.



REMEMBERING VICTIMS OF POLICE VIOLENCE

On Thursday, Social Forum participants attended an organizing workshop to network and brainstorm ideas on how to confront the annual police memorial in Ottawa. According to the organizers, the memorial on Parliament Hill propagates the idea that police are victims, instead of perpetrators, of violence in society. The organizers' goal is to "build an annual protest to commemorate victims of police violence

and to challenge the myth that police work is an honourable profession." A handful of people from various police and prison guard unions attended the workshop to voice their disapproval, saying the counter-commemoration would be held in bad taste. However, the majority of participants agreed that it is necessary to organize against police impunity and render visible the numerous victims of police violence.

The Leveller

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