



# Anarchism in Ottawa

## Common Cause Ottawa

New local group responsible for publishing this paper

by Greg Macdougall

Common Cause is a newly-formed provincial Anarchist organization. It formed in late September, after a founding conference in Toronto where members decided on a basis of unity and policy. The intention is to begin the process of building an organization of thousands that will have a presence in every town, workplace and neighbourhood across the province.

The first main project of this organization is a website and bi-monthly newspaper. These are entitled Linchpin and can be found online at <http://linchpin.ca>

The first issue of the newspaper was published in late November as an eight-page pdf file and has also been put into print by Common Cause locals across Ontario. This insert is part of the second, Jan/Feb 08 edition. Copies are regularly available at both OPIRG offices as well as at Exile Infoshop.

The Ottawa local had its first meeting on November 28, and decided to focus on printing the newspaper and in that way recruiting new members. If you are interested in joining or getting more information, please contact [a\\_ottawa@mutualaid.org](mailto:a_ottawa@mutualaid.org).

The Ottawa group came together after a couple of visits from Common Cause members. The first was a talk by Andrew discussing his experiences as part of the Workers' Solidarity Movement in Ireland, as part of the Anarchist Discussion Group series.

The next visit was on November 17, at the quarterly Ottawa Anarchist Assembly. Provincial secretary Mick Sweetman gave a brief summary of Common Cause and its progress thus far. Common Cause Ottawa will be making a presentation at the next Anarchist Assembly, February 24.

## Exile Infoshop

by Gesyk of Exile Collective

Exile started off with a bunch of young, like minded activists, who came together to discuss the possibilities of opening up a anarchist store front/resource centre in central Ottawa. We all knew that Ottawa needed a safe space for radicals and the like to be able to discuss ideas and organize, and in our country's political crapital, of all places, it is absolutely crucial that members of the community have access to alternative media and resources.

The Exile Infoshop is a collectively-run, volunteer-based, worker owned and operated project organized around the anarchist principles of anti-oppression, equality, community building, and worker control. We believe in egalitarianism, cooperation and a collective struggle against abuses of power.

We strive to stay alive through community support, and of course, the sale of books. We

also have a well-stocked reading library, which will begin lending soon, and some comfy chairs to sit and read, or just chat with any one of the random assortment of people that pop by.

Since we started, we've been well received and feel our impact has been positive. A good day, to me, is when a new face comes through the door with questions on what is going on in Ottawa's radical community.

Exile is located at 256 Bank Street on the second floor. We are hard to spot, but don't give up! Regular hours are 12-8pm, Wednesday through Sunday.

You can write us at: Exile Books, 256-203 Bank St. Ottawa, ON, CANADA K2P 1X4 Other contact information is: Tel: 613-237-9270 Fax: 613-274-0819 Web: [www.exilebooks.org](http://www.exilebooks.org)

PS: if you would like to book some meeting time for your group's radical organizing, don't hesitate to give us a shout. We'll do our best to accommodate you.



## Exile Freedom School

Exile Collective

Education is freedom! The Exile Infoshop Freedom School seeks to provide a space for community-based learning in order to empower and inspire each other to take control of our lives and minds.

The school will have two ongoing components: regular weekly courses running for at least 2 months, and a weekly skill-share that changes from week to week.

The direction of each course depends entirely on the interests of those involved. All courses are fully participatory and each group will decide its direction, space and schedule collectively.

The list of courses has been updated over the past few weeks to include: women's health

## Groups

**Media Matters** is financially supporting the distribution of Linchpin in Ottawa. Media Matters is an action group of OPIRG-Ottawa that supports independent media and media reform: 613-230-3076 [mediamatters@canada.com](mailto:mediamatters@canada.com)

**Ottawa Indymedia (IMC):** [ottawa.indymedia.org](http://ottawa.indymedia.org)

**Indigenous Peoples' Solidarity Movement of Ottawa:** [indigsolwg@gmail.com](mailto:indigsolwg@gmail.com)

**The Garden-Spot:** [www.opirg-carleton.org/gspot](http://www.opirg-carleton.org/gspot)

**Peoples' Republic of Delicious:** [prdottawa@gmail.com](mailto:prdottawa@gmail.com)

**Critical Mass:** [ottawacriticalmass.blogspot.com](http://ottawacriticalmass.blogspot.com)

**Ticket Defense:** [www.flora.org/legal/tickets/](http://www.flora.org/legal/tickets/)

**Triangle Trash:** [triangletrash@yahoo.ca](mailto:triangletrash@yahoo.ca)

**Alternative Heritage Moments** [www.opirg-carleton.org](http://www.opirg-carleton.org) (Link under 'Working Groups')

**Ottawa Action Medics** [ottawaactionmedics@gmail.com](mailto:ottawaactionmedics@gmail.com)

collective; combat training; reading group; winter biking; radical art; food; guitar skills; political prisoner support; creating a radical alternative to institutionalized "mental health programs"; anarchist french class. (contact Exile to sign up for any classes)

If you have other ideas for weekly classes or for a one time skill-share (something you'd either like to share or learn), talk to us! All ideas are welcome, this project is for the broader Ottawa community and we want as much diverse participation as possible.

The Exile Freedom School can use the space while it is closed (all day Mondays and Tuesdays, after 8pm any other day). If you know of a larger, more versatile and accessible space that could be used please let us know.

# LINCHPIN

www.linchpin.ca



## Ottawa

## Anarchist Discussion Group

by Matt Morgan-Brown

The Ottawa Anarchist Discussion Group (OADG) is regularly held every second Sunday afternoon and is made of local Ottawa community organizers and participants who share an anti-authoritarian, anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist and anti-oppression politics. We are involved in diverse struggles and prioritize maintaining a link between theory and practice.

The OADG has been running for three years. We organize discussions that are intended to deepen our revolutionary consciousness and that of the Ottawa anarchist and activist communities. We see this as being fundamentally about linking theory and practice in order to develop a revolutionary praxis; "praxis might be accurately defined as action consciously and intentionally guided by theory while simultaneously guiding the evolution of theoretical elaboration. [We agree that] any liberatory transformation of society is dependent on the development/articulation of an adequate praxis by which revolutionary struggle may be carried out."

In 2007 we showed movies on topics like animal liberation, had local and out-of-town anarchists and/or activists speak on diverse subjects, and hosted community forums such as that which led to the creation of the Ottawa Anarchist Assembly. Some of our outstanding speaker / discussions included Cindy Milstein on The "New" Anarchism, Dave from the North Eastern Federation of Anarchist Communists on Anarchism and Organization, and Common Cause's Andrew on the Worker's Solidarity Movement and Irish anarchist organizing.

In 2008, it will be more of the same, only better! Upcoming topics include the Black Panther Party (February 10), resistance to the 2010 Olympics (February 17), jails, prisons and the prison-industrial complex (March 11), the historic and current significance of MayDay (April 27), class consciousness (May 11), and anti-war and anti-imperialist organizing (date TBA). Organizers are looking for more people to help run things! For more info, email [a\\_ottawa@mutualaid.org](mailto:a_ottawa@mutualaid.org) or visit <http://adg.roadnetwork.org>

## Capital Punishment

People's Global Action Ottawa

Canada is getting ready to play host to the 2010 winter Olympic games and the 2010 G8 summit, and is also preparing to ratify the SPP agreement.

But resistance to these events has already started! From coast to coast anti-imperialists, anti-capitalists, anti-poverty activists and folks opposed to the military and economic occupations at home and abroad are mobilizing and organizing to confront these institutions!

On February 12th PGA Ottawa is launching its "Capital Punishment 2010" campaign,

aimed at disrupting business as usual for the corporations that will be profiting from the Olympics, the SPP and the G8 summit. Join us on Feb 12th (two year countdown to the games). We will be marching through the market area to expose and oppose the NACC, CCCE and Olympics sponsors operating in our city.

You are encouraged to bring noisemakers, a fiery heart and any other instruments to light up the night.

NO OLYMPICS ON STOLEN LAND! e-mail: [pgablocottawa@roadnetwork.org](mailto:pgablocottawa@roadnetwork.org)  
Web: <http://pga.roadnetwork.org>

## Upcoming events

Every Friday that there are classes, 7/7:30pm: Ottawa Cinema Politica @ MacDonald Hall Auditorium (MCD 146), 150 Louis Pasteur Street, University of Ottawa. Info at [www.cinemapolitica.org/ottawa](http://www.cinemapolitica.org/ottawa) or e-mail [dgr@uottawa.org](mailto:dgr@uottawa.org)

4th Annual Israeli Apartheid Week:

Friday February 1, 7:30pm: Film - The Iron Wall (at Cinema Politica)

Saturday February 2 & 16, 1pm: Picket in front of Chapters/Indigo @ Rideau & Sussex - No more support of Israeli Militarism!

Tuesday February 5, 7pm: Speaker Norman Finkelstein (details 613-562-5935 or [gsaed@uottawa.ca](mailto:gsaed@uottawa.ca))

Wednesday February 6, 7:30pm: Speaker Marcy Newman @ Fauteux Hall room 147A, 57 Louis Pasteur, University of Ottawa (\$3)

Friday February 8, 7:30pm: Speakers (at Cinema Politica)

Friday February 1, 5pm: Anti-2010 Olympics Native Youth Speaking Tour @ Unicentre Room 282, Carleton University

Sunday February 3, 1:30pm: Anarchist Discussion Group (Planning Meeting) @ Jack Purcell Community Centre, 2nd flr (off Elgin St.)

Sunday February 10, 1:30pm: Anarchist Discussion Group (topic: Black Panther Party) @ Jack Purcell Community Centre, 2nd flr

Tuesday February 12, 6-7pm: PGA Capital Punishment march @ corner of Rideau & William

Sunday February 17, 1:30 pm: Anarchist Discussion Group (topic: No 2010 Olympics) @ Jack Purcell Community Centre, 2nd flr

Sunday February 24, 1-6pm: Anarchist Assembly @ Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre

## Anarchist Assembly

by Greg Macdougall

The next Ottawa Anarchist Assembly is tentatively set to be held on Sunday February 24 (see info above). Judging from the success of the previous three Assemblies, it should be both a good time and a useful gathering point for people involved and interested in radical struggle in the Ottawa region.

Lia Tarachansky, an Assembly organizer, describes how "the first assemblies have been great venues for social organizing in Ottawa ... They had allowed for a space for sharing of activities, gathering voices for campaigns, and for community building." Attendance has varied, between 40 and 80 people, with over a dozen local activist groups making pre-

sentations to those in attendance.

The purpose behind the initial idea to hold these events was clear: "There was a consensus in the Ottawa activist scene that a space for regular large gatherings was needed." The first Assembly was held in April of 2007, and every 3-4 months since there has been another.

At the last Assembly, a Basis of Unity was decided upon, by consensus. It begins, "The Ottawa Anarchist Assembly is a gathering of anti-authoritarian, anti-capitalist groups and individuals in the Ottawa-Gatineau area ..." The full text is available at <http://oaa.roadnetwork.org>, and the organizers can be reached at [oaa@roadnetwork.org](mailto:oaa@roadnetwork.org)