

Cracks in the Limestone 2

Actions in Kingston, 2014-2017



I published the first volume of this zine in 2013 to document activities in Kingston that shared an offensive character and were interesting to me as an anarchist. I called it "Cracks In The Limestone" because whether it's in the prison labour quarries, the estates of the wealthy, or the narratives of heritage, here limestone is synonymous with Power. We live in the shadows of a large military base, several federal prisons, and an elite university. The good news is that there are cracks; our task is to find them, chisel away at them, and ultimately pry them wide open.

This chronology includes actions, both public and anonymous, performed by diverse people with diverse politics, compiled from publicly available reports. It is incomplete and non-representative. It should go without saying that support work, capacity-building and popular education are of equal necessity and value. These activities heavily inform, shape, and overlap with one another.

Sometimes it can feel like nothing ever happens here. But take for example the small but significant successes in undermining public memory of John A. MacDonald. The diversity of tactics deployed over the past four years - vandalism and education, sabotage and public art, mourning songs and burning effigies - have combined to shift public consciousness and even force the cancellation of the annual birthday party for 'Sir John.' That is worth celebrating.

One impetus for this zine is to praise mostly thankless activity that we don't always talk about openly. I hope it will be a morale boost for those who smile when we hear about the shenanigans, despite the indignant citizens who condemn without even attempting to understand. For those who notice when some new graffiti, wheatpasted posters, or petty vandalism appears in the neighbourhood. For those who come outside when they hear a rowdy protest and join in. This is for you.

...until the cracks become gorges!
Spring 2017

CHRONOLOGY

January 11, 2014: The venue for the John A. MacDonald birthday celebration is changed from City Park to City Hall after a bomb threat was received. The venue change was blamed on poor weather, despite being advertised as “rain or shine.”

March 3, 2014: ~75 Tyendinaga Mohawks and their allies set up a blockade on Shannonville Rd to demand an inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women, starting a week of action.



March 7, 2014: From The Media Co-op: 10 people blocked traffic and handed out flyers on the Lasalle Causeway yesterday morning... We took this action in solidarity with Tyendinaga Mohawks who are currently blockading Shannonville Road demanding a genuine inquiry into the murders and disappearances of Indigenous women across Canada.

March 8, 2014: After receiving word that the federal government will not consider an inquiry, Mohawks block the CN Rail mainline at Wyman Road. There is a confrontation with Ontario Provincial Police resulting in four arrests.

March 19, 2014: Tyendinaga Mohawks again block the CN mainline running through the territory, halting all train traffic between Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal for a day.

May 1, 2014: ~200 people attend the annual May Day BBQ and March in Skeleton Park.

December 2014: Following a city-sanctioned 'street art' festival in Doug Fluhrer Park, many of the murals are tagged or painted over, generating a controversy about public art and gentrification.

January 11, 2015: Red paint is poured on John A. MacDonald's gravesite and the word SHAME written in white paint. At the Bicentennial Ceremony at City Hall, Idle No More sings mourning songs as "uneasy party-goers sang a pitiful rendition of Oh Canada, just as a fighter jet flew overhead for dramatic effect."



February 13, 2015: From The Media Co-op: *This morning, a small group of eight people blocked traffic on the Lasalle Causeway during rush hour. We held banners that read "Shut Down Canada" and "Canada Kills Native Women" and flyered the cars that were stopped. We created a traffic jam and and it was fun and easy to pull off with a small group of people. In the evening, Idle No More Kingston held a round dance to demand an inquiry into the deaths of over 2000 missing and murdered indigenous women. About 25 people held a downtown intersection for a round dance and briefly stopped traffic.*

May 1, 2015: ~200 people attend the annual May Day BBQ and March at Doug Fluhrer Park. The Kingston Whig-Standard writes: *Fittingly, a paper mache Monopoly head pinata was later bashed in – a pretty straight-forward metaphor.*



July 1, 2015: A banner is dropped at the 'Red And White People Parade' for Canada Day, "just as the city's town crier marched by."

September 19, 2015: Vandals break windows overnight at the campaign offices of all three major political parties during the federal election.

October 23, 2015: Several Canadian flags are stolen over three nights from the 'Flags of Remembrance' memorial along Bayridge Drive. Local nationalists freak out and organize a nightly citizens' watch of the memorial.

January 2, 2016: The sales office for The Capitol, a controversial condominium development downtown, has its windows broken. Graffiti is left reading “NEVER IN OUR FAVOUR.”



January 11, 2016: Prior to the MacDonald birthday celebration, vandals slash the tires and pour red paint over the cars of MP Mark Gerretsen and organizer Arthur Milnes at their private homes. A burned flag is left under Milnes' vehicle. Anti-Canada posters are plastered throughout downtown. Protesters drown out the ceremony and burn a MacDonald effigy.



Sssshhhh...

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEFECTIVE PUBLIC BENCHES NEED REPAIR

It's recently come to our attention that the City of Kingston has been installing new public benches with a metal divider in the centre. This pesky bar makes it impossible to lie down and get a good night's sleep, let alone cuddle or smooch!

Clearly some bureaucrat in the Parks Department made a mistake. So we thought we'd save them the embarrassment and repaired a dozen benches. All we needed was a pair of adjustable pliers ("channellocks") and a few wrenches (7/16, 9/16 or 5/8", depending on the bench).



SEE A PROBLEM?
JUST FIX IT!

There's more defective benches
on Princess street and in recently
opened parks and trails - so if you, dear
citizen, want to chip in, we'd appreciate it!

ACT ACTION
S THE GOODS



Steal from the rich



JOHN A MACDONALD
IS A RACIST, COLONIAL
SHITLORD!

YOU SHOULD ALL BE
ASHAMED TO CELEBRATE
HIS HEINOUS LEGACY:
150 YRS OF COLONIAL
VIOLENCE

CANADA IS A LIE
BURN IT DOWN

6th Annual

MAY DAY MARCH

SUNDAY MAY 1st
SKELETON PARK
FREE BBQ AT NOON
MARCH AT 1 PM

Come celebrate International Worker's Day
with a free BBQ and a spirited march
through downtown!

Join us in resistance to and in defiance of
capitalism, racism, colonialism, and all
forms of oppression and domination!

Email us! maydaykingston@riseup.net

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Don't look or listen to that
rabble. CANADA IS THE
GREATEST COUNTRY IN
THE WORLD

But is what
they're saying
about colonialism
true?

Guh, no...
Well, sort of...
I mean...
*At least we're not as bad
as the United States!*

March 11, 2016: The Sleepless Goat, a workers' co-op and cafe, closes after 24 years as a community fixture due to exorbitant rent. A farewell party is held with speeches, music and fireworks.

March 13, 2016: The windows of the Springer Group, a major downtown landlord, are smashed. Some bystanders intervene and an individual is arrested and charged with mischief.

May 1, 2016: ~100 people attend May Day despite the rain.

July 1, 2016: Masked individuals enter the Canada Day parade and burn a large upside down Canadian flag with the words "Our Home On Native Land/Genocide And Colonialism."



September 12, 2016: Elm, a new gentrifying cafe in the Inner Harbour neighbourhood, has its windows smashed.

September 17, 2016: Anarchists intercept cars entering Collins Bay Prison at visiting hours to distribute information about an ongoing prison strike across the United States.

October 4, 2016: City councillor Adam Candon, amid accusations of a conflict of interest with the Captiol Condos, tells council he has been subject to "gross ridicule," had his car keyed, and fears for his family's safety in the wake of the scandal. "It's absolutely disgusting," he said. "I can't live my life this way."

October 22, 2016: The windows of the Elm Cafe are broken for the second time, just days after the owners finish replacing them.

October 29, 2016: From It's Going Down:

Several TD Bank ATMs were smashed with hammer and chisel and tagged NO DAPL ... all machines at the downtown branch remain out of service and guarded by private security. This was a small gesture of solidarity with water protectors fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline.

November 12, 2016: Idle No More holds a prayer circle outside of TD Bank in solidarity with Standing Rock.

November 22, 2016: The Kingston town crier has his SUV stolen from City Hall. "I was on my way to a cry, that's the sad part."



November 23, 2016: Following a racist costume party at Queen's University, "Make Racists Afraid Again" is found scrawled across campus.

December 5, 2016: A small group of indigenous women and allies slowly danced across the LaSalle Causeway in downtown Kingston carrying a banner reading "Oil Spills, Capitalism Kills" in solidarity with land and water protectors.

January 11, 2017: Vandals splatter paint on MP Gerretsen's office and write "150 Years of Genocide" in gold paint on the 202nd birthday of John A. MacDonald. The annual birthday celebration at the statue is cancelled. Idle No More holds a victory party.



January 29, 2017: ~150 people gather in Market Square and march against Donald Trump and Islamophobia.

February 4, 2017: Protest and march from Market Square against Islamophobia and White Supremacy.

February 10, 2017: The windows of the Elm Cafe are smashed for the third time. A GoFundMe campaign to replace the windows and upgrade security raises \$8640 in a few days.

March 4, 2017: ~75 anti-racists carrying banners, signs, and flagpoles confront a handful of anti-muslim demonstrators at Market Square. The Islamophobes are drowned out by chants and a sound system, have their signs and flags taken away and are relentlessly antagonized until they are escorted back to their cars by confused looking Kingston police officers.



What happened yesterday?

Like · Reply · 1 hr



Trixie McPixie Got fucking mobbed only 6 showed up for us against about 100 of em...got in a couple of scraps...they wrestled me for my flag....and tried to burn it...u fkn believe that shit

Like · Reply · 45 mins

March 8, 2017: ~60 people march for International Women's Day from Skeleton Park through Kingston.

March 24, 2017: Masked protesters disrupt an event at Queen's featuring Kellie Leith, a Conservative leadership candidate who is calling for a 'Canadian values test' to screen immigrants.

March 24, 2017: The windows and door of the Elm Cafe are smashed for the fourth time. The owners install electric shutters over the windows and a steel gate in front of the door.



May 1, 2017: ~75 people gather in Skeleton Park in the pouring rain for the annual May Day BBQ and March. As the rain escalated into a full on thunderstorm, demonstrators took to the streets with anti-capitalist chants, speeches at targeted businesses, a banner drop from a Princess Street rooftop, and sidewalk chalk.

Sous le calcaire, la plage!
Cataraqui, Spring 2017
www.613anarchy.net