Walking Through Ottawa’s History: ‘Forgotten Stories’ from a Radical Tour Guide

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Late Spring 2016: Tuesdays, April 19th – May 24th from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Week 1 & 6 will be held on campus, in room 124, Leeds House Building  
Weeks 2-5 will be off-campus walking tours in downtown Ottawa. Departure points are to be determined.

Schedule of topics:

Week 1 (April 19): **Classroom Lecture: Memory and Politics in Ottawa’s History**  
This class discusses different conceptions of history, focusing on the difference between conventional views which stress the role of powerful decision-makers, and more radical views that focus on the lived experience of the common people (‘history from below’ or ‘peoples history’). We will also note some of the ways in which powerful elites and subordinate groups struggle to commemorate their respective interpretations of historical events and use them for political purposes.  
(Please note: Suggested readings are not essential, but will add to enjoyment of the course.)


Week 2 (April 26): **Tour: Indigenous Peoples and Colonialism in Ottawa’s History**

In this first of four tours throughout downtown Ottawa, we will examine the 250 year history of Algonquin resistance to settler occupation of the Ottawa-Gatineau region while visiting sites that tell us about Canada’s colonial history and indigenous resistance: from Tecumseh’s pan-Indian alliance, through the Metis Rebellion and the Red Power movement to Idle-No-More.

**Did you know?** Your registration in the LinR program allows you to borrow materials from Carleton University’s MacOdrum Library. To receive a temporary borrowing card, visit the circulation desk and identify yourself as a participant of LinR.
(Note: During this and all other tours, our stories are supported by relevant maps and photos.)

**Week 3 (May 3): Tour: Building the Rideau Canal and the Making of the Ottawa Working Class**

In this tour, we will examine the work of the Irish Navvies, French Canadian Labourers, skilled stonemasons and others who built the Rideau Canal (1826-1832) under military and contractor supervision. Our tour will include discussion about working and living conditions, racism, riots and strikes, frequent accidents, disease and death. We will also note recent political battles over the official memory about the canal building experience.


**Week 4 (May 10): Tour: An Unauthorized History of Parliament Hill**

This tour skips the usual talk about Prime Ministers and government processes typical of ‘official’ tours to focus on Parliament Hill’s unknown history: the original Algonquin inhabitants, its time as ‘Barracks Hill’, the strikes and casualties associated with its construction, the radical MPs elected to fundamentally change Canada, and use of the Hill for propaganda by Governments and protestors.


**Week 5 (May 17): Tour: Protest, Strike and Rebellion in the History of Canada’s Capital**

This final tour will visit a number of sites of protest, strike and rebellion in Ottawa’s history. We will talk about locally generated events such as the ‘Shiners’ War’ and ‘Stony Monday’ as well as ‘imported’ protests like those by unemployed workers in 1935, the 1970 Abortion Caravan and the 1974 ‘red power’ demonstration on Parliament Hill. Among other things, the tension between Ottawa-as-town and Ottawa-as-capital will be discussed.

**Week 6 (May 24): Classroom Lecture: Versions of History, Lessons of History**

In our final class we will consider some of the differences between officially sanctioned history and commemoration and the stories heard during the tours to reflect upon the different versions and uses of history. Not only will we consider some of the ‘lessons of history’, we will also examine some of the implications of considering the present as history.

**Suggested readings:** “VoxPop2015: The People’s Conclusion,” Mark Hailwood’s blog


**Some additional readings for those who want to pursue these issues further**

- **History from below in other cities**
  - German, Lindsay and Paul Rees – A People’s History of London
  - Kayton, Bruce – Radical Walking Tours of New York City
  - Pulido, Laura et al – A People’s Guide to Los Angeles
  - Rosenberg, David – Rebel Footprints

- **Local History in Ottawa-Gatineau**
  - Elliott, Bruce – The City Beyond
  - Gaffield, Chad - History of the Outaouais
  - Jenkins, Phil – An Acre of Time
  - Woods, Shirley E. – Ottawa, The Capital of Canada
  - Taylor – Ottawa an Illustrated History

- **Public History**
  - Settling and Unsettling Memories – Nicole Neatby & Peter Hodgins
• **Labour/Social History in Canada**
  o Martin, Michael – Working Class in Hull, 1800-1929
  o Palmer, Bryan – Working Class Experience

• **Indigenous History**
  o Gehl, Lynn – The Truth that Wampum Tells
  o Kruzich, Noreen – The Ancestors are Arranging Things
  o Lawrence, Bonita – Fractured Homeland
  o McGregor, Stephen – Since Time Immemorial
  o Kino-nda-nimi Collective – The Winter We Danced

• **Bytown and Wrightville era – Military and Lumber towns from 1800-1857**
  o Way, Peter – Common Labour

• **Capital designation to World War I: 1858-1914**
  o Doherty, Bill – Slaves of the Lamp
  o Palmer, Bryan & Gregory Kealey – Dreaming of What Might Be
  o Reid, John D. – The Ottawa Sharpshooters

• **From World War I through the Depression in Canada’s Capital: 1914 -1939**
  o Endicott, Stephen L. – Raising the Workers’ Flag
  o Howard, Victor – We Were the Salt of the Earth
  o Swankey, Ben et al – Work and Wages

• **World War II, post-war struggles and Keynesianism: 1940-1964**
  o Jamieson, Stuart Marshall – Times of Trouble
  o Davidson, Joe et al – Joe Davidson
  o McInnis, Peter S. – Harnessing Labour Confrontation

• **Social Movements and Labour since the 1960s**
  o CEIU - 50,000 Strong: The Federal Clerks’ Strike of 1980
  o Kinsman, Gary – The Regulation of Desire
  o Panitch, Leo et al – From Consent to Coercion
  o Parrot, Jean-Claude – My Union, My Life

**Some other interesting resources In the Ottawa-Gatineau region**

• **Archives/Libraries**
- National Archives
- City of Ottawa Archives
- Ottawa Room at the Main Branch of the Ottawa Public Library
- Ottawa Room at the Carleton University Library

- **Museums**
  - Canadian Museum of History
  - Bytown Museum
  - Workers History Museum (virtual museum)
  - Canadian War Museum

- **Organizations**
  - Ottawa Council of Heritage Organizations
  - Ottawa District Labour Council
  - Historical Society of Ottawa
  - Heritage Ottawa