A-Survival-Gathering

Toronto, July 1-4 1988 · tel:(416) 536-2514

P.O. Box 435
Stn. P Toronto
Ontario Canada
M5S 2S9



INTRODUCTION

This will be the last mailout before the Gathering happens, so we're packing as much information into it as possible. There is information on how to get to the site — the 519 Church St. Community Centre —' complete with maps. Also included are specifics: the workshops, child care, food, border crossing info, basic information on how to get by in the city and a listing of various events that are going to take place. It will be a busy weekend. And we hope that the preparations will satisfy both those who want some workshops organized and those who want lots of free time and space.

It is certainly clear that many Americans are critical of our choice of the term "Survival Gathering" as the descriptive term for the Gathering. One lesson to be drawn from this is certainly how cautious we must be in working across cultural bounderies since the word "survival"—a pretty basic word—seems to have such different meanings in the U.S. and English Canada. In English Canada, survival is seen as a strong term. It does suggest that times are hard, but to survive is to draw on individual and collective strengths and resources. Survival is active and not passive; a function of strength and not weakness.

Our survival is— and clearly from and anarchist perspective must be— a collective process. And it is at the root of our Resistance. It is clear that without a far reaching revolution we won't survive. Without a social revolution the planet won't survive. Revolutionary change is no picnic. Social transformation is not some sort of transcendental experience. Rather it is going to be a slow and difficult process. To use Survival as a rallying call is to assert our humanity, our rootedness in the natural world, against a techno-political system that is in a feeding frenzy of profit, consumption and destruction.

In the native tradition — from which we draw much — a Survival Gathering is a coming together of a variety of forces. This is what we would like to see the Gathering be — a coming together of the disparate tendencies, collectives and communities that currently constitute a loose anarchist movement throughout North America. We do not seek a false harmony, but hope that people will come together in a spirit of dialogue and resistance so that we can leave better prepared for the struggles ahead.

Meanwhile the work and organizing of the gathering is coming along, however chaotic it might appear to us sometimes. The response here in Toronto as well as abroad has been enthusiastic and we hope that this Gathering will provide a good basis to make North America a hotbed of Anarchism. We appreciate the support of all who have helped us, and we hope to see you all in July.

GETTING TO THE GATHERING

The main site for the Gathering is the 519 Church St. Community Centre, which, as the name suggests, is located at 519 Church St., one block east of Yonge and between three and four blocks south of Bloor, just north of Wellesley. Bloor and Yonge are the main downtown streets, Wellesley is the first major street south of Bloor.

TRAVEL CONNECTIONS

Subway — The subway is the main form of public transport, together with buses and streetcars. The subway is pretty safe even late at night, though of course, caution during the later hours is always advisable. The closest subway station to the Centre is Wellesley on the Yonge line. From there, the station being at the north-east corner, walk one block east to Church and the Centre is just to the north on the east side of the street. The fare is \$1.05, or 8 tickets for \$7. Change is available only at the subway stations; buses and streetcars accept tickets or exact change only.

Air — if you fly directly to Toronto airport (officially and horribly named Lester B. Pearson International Airport) take one of three Gray Coach Airport Express buses. The downtown bus costs \$8. Get off at the Chelsea Inn, walk about two and a half blocks east to Church St, then north to the Centre. The other two buses go to the York Mills (\$5.25) and Islington (\$4.25) subway stations. You will want to go the the Yonge/Bloor or Wellesley stops. From Islington it is a direct ride east to Bloor/Yonge. From there it is a 5-10 minute walk to the Centre or go one stop south on the Yonge line to the Wellesley station. From York Mills take the southbound train and get off at the Wellesly station. See above for further instructions.

Buffalo — from the States it might be cheaper or easier to fly to Buffalo airport. From there you can take the Gray Coach bus to downtown Toronto (\$33.60 round trip, further directions see Bus below) or fly by Express Air to Toronto Island airport. When you get off the ferry, take the King or Bathurst streetcar to the subway, go to Wellesley station and proceed as above.

Bus—the bus station is on the north-west corner of Bay and Dundas St. From there it is about a 10 block walk to the Centre or go to the Yonge and Dundas subway station and go north 2 stops to Wellesley and proceed as above.

Train — there is no direct train service from Detroit or Buffalo to Toronto, but there are connections to Montreal from New York and other points in the northeastern states. There is frequent train service from Montreal and Windsor to Toronto. From Union Station in Toronto, take the Yonge subway north to Wellesley and proceed as above.

Car— From Buffalo/Niagara Falls, take the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW), which becomes the Gardiner Expressway as you reach Toronto. Take the Jarvis exit (very shortly after the Yonge St. exit), go north (left) a couple of miles to Wellesley, turn west (left) to Church St. and you're there. Parking will be a problem.

From Detroit/Windsor or Port Huron/Sarnia, take the 401 east to the 427 south (just inside the metropolitan area) to the QEW east, then proceed as above.

From Kingston, Gananoque, Montreal or points east of Lake Ontario, take the 401 west to the Don Valley Parkway south, take the Bayview/Bloor exit, follow the signs to Bloor St., turn right (west), then left (south) onto Church and go 3 to 4 blocks south to the Centre.

From the north (or from the west but coming north over the lakes) come down the 400 south, take to the 401 west a short distance to the 427 south and then proceed as from Detroit above.

If you don't arrive until Friday evening, we will be at the Christian Resource Centre for the banquet. To get there by transit take the Yonge subway line (obtain transfer where you pay your fare) to the College St. station, take the streetcar east to River St. and go south to Oak St. The CRC is at 40 Oak St.

By car, come in as per directions for the 519 Church Centre, Then from Jarvis go right at Gerrard, go to River St., turn right and Oak St. is right there.

Gathering Telephone Number 416-536-2514

MORE BORDER CROSSING

This is just a little reminder about crossing the border into the Great White North.

First of all, please mail all your propaganda ahead of you. The mail may not be the most secure means of transporting stuff, but if they find alot of literature etc. in your luggage at the border, they will most probably confiscate it and send you home. Just mail it to the Gathering at least two weeks in advance and it will be waiting for you at 519 Church St. when you arrive. If you have a bunch of leaflets or single sheets you want to hand out, just mail up one copy and photocopy it when you get here. Prices for photocopying start at 3 cents a copy.

Don't bring any illegal drugs with you. They have been confiscating cars at the border for as little as one roach in the ashtray. So far this has only been happening on entry into the States, but there are indications that the Canadian authorities will start doing it as well. Don't worry, just like photocopying you can do it here. If you are taking prescription drugs, be sure to bring a copy of the prescription and the original packaging with you, you will need these to make sure you can get back into the States with no hassles.

Studs and spikes are generally considered 'deadly weapons' in Canada. People have been turned back at the border for having them on their clothes, and the Toronto police will arrest you if they see you wearing them.

Thats about it, best of luck!

Registration (housing arrangements, welcome etc.) will take place at 519 Church St. Community Centre on Thursday until 10 pm. After that call 536-2514 and we will tell you where to go.lf you arrive Fri. or Sat. come to 519 Church St. If you are arriving prior to Thurs. give us a call before you get here.

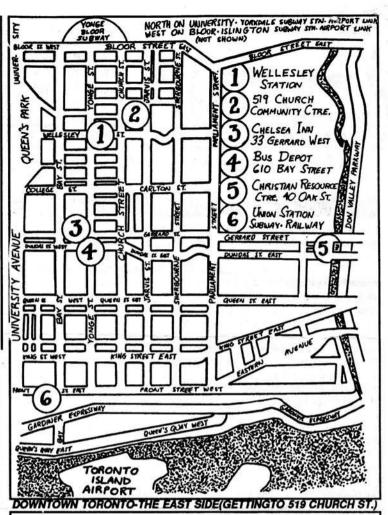
SONGS OF ANARCHISM AND REVOLUTION

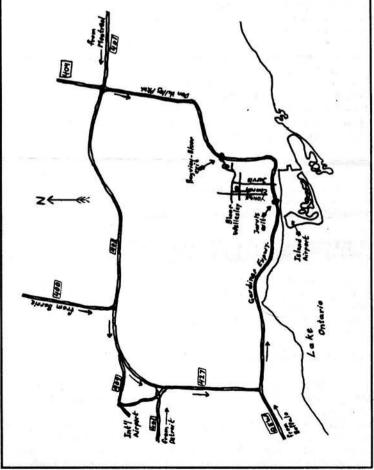
Songs of Anarchism and Revolution, a tape of traditional songs from the international anarchist movement, is now available in North America from Reality Now Publishers. This tape is a wonderful collection of historical 'anthems' from anarchists, including 'A Las Barricadas' from the Spanish Civil War, 'Hey, Hey, Down With the Police' from pre-1917 Russia, and 'L'Internationale'. All proceeds from this printing will be used for the Toronto Anarchist Gathering July 1-4 1988. Available for \$6 plus \$1 for postage from RN Publishers, P.O. Box 6326 Stn A Toronto Ont., M5W 1P7, Canada.



A FUNDRAISING ADD (PUBLISH IT IN YOUR ZINE PLEASE)







GETTING INTO T.O.FROM THE BIG HIGHWAYS (YOU'RE ALMOST HERE)

TORONTO FACTS

In comparison with most parts of the U.S., food (particularly restaurants), gasoline, tobacco and alcohol will all cost substantially more than you're used to paying, even taking into account the cheaper Canadian dollar. You can save money by buying alcohol or tobacco at the Duty Free stores at the border. Gasoline prices are between 40 and 50 cents Canadian per litre.

Liquor laws are fairly strict here, and count on them being rigourlously enforced. You have to be able to prove that you are at least 19 years old to be allowed to drink, and drinking is only allowed in "licenced establishments". On top of that liquor and beer are probably a lot more expensive than you are used to.

Toronto is, in general, a safe city, the streets downtown are busy until the bars close. As always it is safer for men than for women.

It is a good idea to change money before you cross the border. Banks will be closed on the Friday due to the national holiday. American money is accepted in most places but often at a worse rate than the official exchange rate. You should get just over \$1.20 Canadian for \$1 US.

GATHERING SPECIFICS

FOOD

We will be providing lunch on Friday and Saturday, a fancy banquet Friday night, a simple dinner Saturday night, and a picnic-style spread in the park on Sunday. For those who stay through Monday, food will be provided near the end of the day. We will not be charging a fixed price for any of the meals, but we will ask for donations with the intent of breaking even for this part of the Gathering's cost. Hopefully this will mean that those who can afford it will pay a little more to compensate for those who can't. A thorough breakdown of food expenditures will be available. The food we provide will be vegan (no animal products) — this may be a controversial choice but we did it because it is by far the cheapest. We will be organizing voluntary labour-sharing for the food preparation and clean-up.

LOCAL PROMOTION

Hello. The local promotion collective requests that those who can bring along spare sheets to make some snappy-looking multi-purpose artistic banner-like creations to decorate our events during the Gathering. The postershow is coming along fantasticaly, but we still need lots of submissions. Send C/O Darrell.

DAY OF NETWORKING

Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm has been set aside for networking in the open-air setting of High Park. The "schedule" will allow time for all components of the schedule proposed in MAYDAY (evaluation of MAYDAY, Network organization and process, Joint Network Actions/Projects, organizing a date for the next network meeting) and proposals for the 1989 Gathering, with a good amount of time set aside for affinity group networking to occur (prisoner support, anarchist media network, etc.) as well as providing opportunity for people to network by region, for those who wish to do so. The agenda will be scheduled roughly as proposed by those who Gathered in Atlanta, and reported through MAYDAY, but all affinity group discussion will be organized spontaneously, according to need/desire, within the remainder of the scheduled time (to 3pm) and may well continue throughout the day if desired.

FUNDRAISING

We have a film night and a benefit concert planned before the Gathering, and sales of posters, T-shirts, tapes and buttons are going very well. However we still need money. We hope that our fundraising efforts wil pay for most of the Gathering's expenses, and that the balance can be covered by donations from everyone who attends. Food is expected to pay for itself (through donations). Bring as much money as you can: you never know what you need it for. And if we make a profit, next year's Gathering will have a headstart in its fundraising.

HOUSING

We will try to billet as many people as possible to homes. The overflow will be taken up by the Christian Resource Centre. We need you to fill out the questionnaire (if you didn't do so already) so that we know how many people will need housing, and who in our area can provide housing. If you have any special needs, it is imperative that you fill out the questionnare and get it back to us ASAP. For those of you with tents, bring them along, as we have a number of backyards that are suitable for tent pitching

ACCESSIBILITY

Our goal is to make the Gathering fully accessible to all differently-abled anarchists, but we need the input of those who have special needs (or those who

read this mailout and know differently-abled anarchists) as we are inexperienced in this area. We have contacts here in Toronto (the DisAbled Womens Network) who can help us arrange for some transportation within the city, attendant care, tapes, interpreters, and who have some resources, but it is urgent that we know in advance how many anarchists from out of town would need, for example, wheelchair transportation. We don't want to be unprepared, but, as our resources are limited, the more accurate information we have, the more efficient we can be. If your needs fit into the above, please call us, or have someone you trust call us, at 416-536-2514.

CHILD CARE

Our goal (and philosophy) is to provide a free, safe and fun environment at the gathering for our children. Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in all aspects of the gathering; however we will be offering children's and all ages activities throughout the four days, on the following schedule: Friday - 11 am (or whenever the general meeting ends) to 6pm, Sat. -9-6, Sun. (day in the park) 9am to the start of the music, Mon - 9am to 5pm. There are swimming and wading pools so bring bathing suits. Keep in mind that Sat. night there is a gig, so you may want to arrange your own childcare. We'd appreciate it if you could send a response to the questionaire It's very important that we know about your children's needs, so please specify clearly what they are in your response. Finally, we will be putting up a schedule sheet at the gathering for people to sign up to help with childcare, all people are greatly encouraged to help out. For those of you who are in or around Toronto, one of us is offering a pre-gathering workshop on facilitating childcare. There are two alternate dates for this, Sun. May 29 and Sun June 5 both at 12pm for more info. call us at the Gathering phone number and leave a message so we can tell you where it will be held.

APPEAL FOR TRAVEL FUND

For many people money is the most prominent factor in their decision on whether or not they can come to the Gathering. We would like to help those people with little or no funds to get here, but we are faced with our own expenses, so our abilities to help are limited. We would like to encourage people to hold their own fundraisers to try to send at least one or two people from their community to the Gathering, so that if everyone can't make it, at least some will and can relay information back to their respective communities.

For those of you with money, please consider donating some of it to people who need it for travelling to Toronto and back. Earmark it for the Travel Fund. We will then allocate it to those who need it. We have one special case for the Travel Fund we would like to tell you about. The Indianer Kommune is a German childrens' liberation group which provides refuge for kids who need it. They have been operating for many years and do excellent educational and outreach work on top of their practical activities. Three people from the commune (one adult and two children) are interested in coming to this Gathering. They are in need of money for airfare, and a return trip is about \$900 per person. Donations can be forwarded to our Travel Fund earmarked "Indianer Kommune" or directly to them at:

Postfach 810361 d-8500 Nurenburg West Germany

SCHEDULE

Thursday registration & welcoming at 519 Church

Friday 9 - 6 workshops at 519 Church

7 banquet at Christian Resource Centre

Saturday 9 - 6 workshops at 519 Church 9 party with MDC and Layabouts

Sunday all in the park

9 - 3 Day Of Networking

3 till whenever: DOA discussion

4 - 9 Music(thanks to all the bands who offered.) and other entertainment

Monday DOA, t.b.a.

WORKSHOPS

At present we have about 47 or so confirmed workshops that cover a wide variety of topics. There will also be space available for those who wish to hold spontaneous workshops. According to the size of some workshops we might have to reset or break them down. Don't worry if we have overlooked any workshop proposals or letters there is still time to mend that. If you'd like any more information or would like to contribute material that you feel would help with any of the workshops then write to us, c/o the workshop committee. Here is a complete list, with descriptions as far as available at time of writing:

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Strategies in the Movement: What does anarchism mean in strategic terms? Does need to explore new strategies in light of the new social actors and concerns that have come to the fore since the 18th century?

Eco Feminism: Why do feminism and ecology need each other? A discussion on the connections between ecology and feminism and how this is related to anarcha-feminism.

Anarcha-Feminism: An exploration of the relationship of anarcha-feminism to the traditionally male anarchist movement, focusing of marxist-feminism and radical feminism.

The Politics of Midwifery: the midwifery movement in N.A., the anti-authoritarian approach of midwifery and how this conflicts with the current drive for legislation and legalization of midwifery. Hopefully we will be able to show a video of Inuit midwives and midwifery in Nicaragua produced by the Association of Ontario Midwives Outreach Committee.

Squatting: Why squat? The use of squatting as a direct action, and a practical skills exchange will take place.

Middle East Anti War: A prime case of state loyalty, the war between Israel and the Palestinians. How does a Jewish Post-Zionist viewpoint become independent of Zionism and criticize anti-Zionism?

Youth Liberation: Because we're oppressed as young people, we become oppressors. How can we break the cycle?

Anarchist Ideas and Methods in the Mainstream: Reaching people in your union, community or tenants association, co-op or other "mass" organization. Successes and disappointments in Vancouver, Montreal and elsewhere.

as well as:

Anarcho-Pacifism
Worker Owned/Run Industry
"What is Revolutionary Atheist \(\therefore\) Socialism?"
\(\therefore\) and Indians
Symbolism and \(\therefore\) / Propaganda
National Liberation Struggles
Empire and Ecological Destruction
I.W.W
Interpersonal Relationships
Technology
\(\therefore\) and Homosexuality

SKILLS

Wimmins Health Skills: A hands-on session teaching wimmin self-speculum exams, breast checks, self-insemination and fertility awareness method of birth control/conception timing. Please write to us and let us know if you plan to attend this workshop since we will need to buy supplies in advance (i.e. speculums etc.) also donations would be appreciated towards this. Write to Linda c/o the gathering.

as well as:

Facilitation
Radio
Resistance Culture
Using Scrap Waste
Wimmins Self Defence
Street Theatre
Resistance to Medical Authority
Subversive Arts

PRESENTATIONS

in Greece: A presentation on the current issues, problems and strategies of the anarchist movement in Greece.

Loving Alternatives: This workshop will focus on finding ways to create loving and caring alternatives to monogamy. A discussion will also be held on how to integrate these options in our lives.

Canadian Security Services: Security services in Canada and connections to other agencies outside canada. History as well as discussion on their "dirty tricks"

Anarchism and Iroquois Thought: Workshop examing some of the basic elements of traditional native peoples' world view and the way of life through a comparison with the fundemental elements of social ecology as outlined by Murray Bookchin.

as well as:

Street Theatre
Healing ceremony,
And Military Strategy/Workers Self Defence
History of Art
Disability Rights

AFFINITY GROUPS

Prisoners/Prison

Animal Liberation
Pagan Spirituality
Mutual Aid
People of Colour
Queer Anarchism
Back to the Land
East Bloc Solidarity
Aids Consequenses/Personal-Political
and Christianity
Working in Large Organizations
Jewish Anarchists
A Caucus of Revolutionary Atheist Anarchist Socialists

ALL AGES ACTIVITIES

The following activities will be going on all day Friday and Saturday in the childrens' area:

T-Shirt Making
Bead Working
Colouring Book Creation/Publishing
Snack Making
Insta Weaving
Banner Making
Painting
Play Do Making and Sculpting
Drumming

We will need to get some supplies for these activities. If you plan to come or would like to please send a donation to the Gathering earmarked "All Ages Activities"

REGIONAL CONTACTS

If you are wondering about ride sharing or other stuff in your region, try giving your regional contact a call:

Vancouver B.C.- Chaotic Distribution 604-291-2314

Argenta, B.C. Dick Martin 604-366-4370

Kingston, Ont. Pam and Peter 613-544-2382

Ottawa, Ont. Sean and Chantel 705-749-7130

Montreal, Quebec Socialisme et Liberte 514-844-3207

Atlanta, GA, USA Circle A 404-373-5998

New Orleans, LA Jimmy McPherson 504-523-1785

Minneapolis MN Back Room Books 612-870-7008

Monte Rio, CA Feral Faun P.O.Box 48, Monte Rio, CA 95462

Birmingham MI Craig Stuntz 313-642-1654

TWO HANDY QUESTIONNAIRES

Fill Em Out Please!

GATHERING QUESTIONNAIRE

In order for us to plan for everyone's accommodation, interpretation, and child-care needs, we have put together a little questionnaire. Your response to these questions will give us a better idea of what to expect and what to plan for. The reason that we are including it again in this mailout, is that not many people replied the first time. Obviously not everyone will respond, but the more people who do, the better prepared we can be when y'all arrive.

Montreal has already offered to provide french-english interpretation and we have a person who can provide sign language. Montreal will also be giving some workshops in french at which they will translate to english.

| ACCOMODATION |
|---|
| I have made my own arrangements |
| ☐ I need accomodation |
| ☐ I prefer smoke-free ☐ animal-free |
| wheelchair accessible |
| ☐ I live in Toronto and can provide housing |
| for how many people ? |
| type (please specify) ? |
| INTERPRETATION |
| ☐ I need interpretation to English |
| from what language ? |
| ☐ I need sign-language interpretation |
| ☐ I can provide interpretation or sign language |
| which or what language ? |
| CHILDCARE |
| How many kids are coming with you? |
| What are their ages |
| Do your kids have special needs or requirements that we should be aware of? eg: dietary (food allergies etc.), Medical (medicine to be taken), differently abled, or housing needs (cribs etc.) |
| |

MAILING LISTS ORGANIZATION

Time is passing and as the gathering approaches we need to streamline our mailing list a bit.

Those people on the survival gathering address list may also be receiving the publication Mayday (a forum for more effective networking within the anarchist movement). Mayday has been compiling the network mailing list, which is published in Mayday each time it becomes updated. The list is for anarchists across the continent who are doing similiar work to keep in touch.

It has been decided that the responsibility for the network mailing list will be handled by whichever city holds the continental gathering, and thus will change each year. This is to ensure that the responsibility is shared, and to avoid centralization. We are now in the process of updating the network mailing list, combining the Toronto gathering, the Minneapolis gathering, Mayday, and the Haymarket lists. As it is a published list, we need your permission before your name can be added to it. Your choice will be signified on your mailing label by an "N" (network), or a "C" (confidential).

It must also be added that when we say "confidential" it means that you will receive anarchist Survival Gathering information as well as Mayday, but your address won't be part of the published network list. As well, the confidential list will be kept elsewhere, not where it would be seen, or get coffee spilled on it.

So, please fill in the handy answer form and send it in. We need the info as soon as possible, as we don't want people's privacy to be compromised.



Please answer the questionnaires pertinent to you and return as soon as possible to:

A Survival Gathering P.O. Box 435 Stn. P Toronto, Ontario M5S-2S9 Canada

name:

address:

city:

