

## **MAY DAY KICKS OFF MAYWEEK AND MAYWORKS FESTIVALS**

May 1, 2006

May Day is a name used interchangeably with International Workers' Day which, in turn, is the commemoration of the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, Illinois, and a celebration of the social and economic achievements of the international labor movement.

In countries other than Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom, resident working classes fought hard to make May Day an official governmentally-sanctioned holiday, efforts which eventually largely succeeded. For this reason, May Day in most of the world today is marked by huge street rallies of workers led by their trade unions and various large socialist and communist parties — a phenomenon not generally seen in the U.S. (which has a history of strong anti-communism), Canada or the UK.

While it's not an official holiday in Canada, there are many celebrations of labour and the arts over the next week and/or month. Click on the links below to check out some of these festivals

[Mayweek Edmonton](#)

[Mayworks Ottawa](#)

[Mayworks Toronto](#)

[Mayworks Winnipeg](#)