

# BikeMonth2013.ca

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55% of all trips that Toronto residents make are less than 7 km and under 30 minutes by bike.\* Tens of thousands are already biking to work.

# BIKE MONTH 2013

Every Ride Counts

Cycle Toronto



Ride with us on **Bike to Work Day**, Monday May 27 and celebrate **Bike Month** until the end of June.

\*Toronto Public Health. *Road to Health: Improving Walking and Cycling in Toronto*. April 2012.



Ride your bike to the **ING DIRECT Café** every Friday morning during Bike Month and get a free cup of coffee

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In a couple of days before my court appearance on January 18, with hardly any effort, 24 physicians at St. Michael's Hospital, including the chiefs of family medicine and emergency medicine, signed an open letter supporting my action and called for 400 km of additional bike lanes in Toronto.

Why? Because the safety of bike lanes encourages cycling and cycling saves lives. Leading scientifically-validated medical guidelines cite physical activity as a top intervention to eliminate between a quarter and a third of illness and death from heart disease, stroke, hypertension, colon cancer, breast cancer, diabetes and depression.

Whereas three to six Torontonians die annually while cycling, Toronto Public Health estimates that about 50 deaths are prevented. With little or no change in car traffic, the Jarvis bike lane, by City staff estimates, led to a 300%, or 600 bike trips a

day, increase on that road with a 23% drop in all collisions.

A radio talk show host chidingly asked me, "As a doctor...what were you thinking while sitting on that bike lane?" My answer: "As a doctor, I wondered, what was City Council thinking when they voted to remove them?"

## BURSTING THE BIXI BUBBLE

Sign the petition for expansion

BY AMELIA BROWN

BIXI, Toronto's bike-sharing system, has yet another way to pay for your ride. As of April 2013, occasional BIXI users can subscribe, bypassing

the deposit fee, and pay just \$5 for each 24-hour period using their BIXI key.

The new pass aims to help customers commuting outside of the "BIXI bubble" downtown where most bike stations are, but Cycle Toronto has launched a petition for expansion that would see over 3,000 bikes with stations reaching further throughout the city.

## CITY HALL BIKE STATION TO BE BUILT BY 2015

No hanky-panky for Doug Ford

BY COSETTE SCHULZ

Toronto will soon be the home of North America's

largest bike station. The 380-spot secure bike parking facility is part of the larger Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization. Bike parking will be available 24-hours a day, along with change rooms, lockers, showers and tools. Despite approval by city council and the benefits of the bike station, Councillor Doug Ford considered it to be "reckless spending" and suggested that the showers would encourage "hanky-panky". He even projected a \$70,000 loss in revenue for the Toronto Parking Authority – although, no one knows where he got the number from. Other councillors, like committee chair Paul Ainslie, noted the many currently unused spaces in the parking garage where the new bike station will be located, and voted in favour of the project. It was approved May 10, 2013, at City Council and will be built within the next two years.