



Keep cool this summer with these oven-free eats 24

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Today's weather: Mainly sunny. High 23 C. Low 16 C

24 hours

people



Doctor denies doling out dangerous drugs
18

canada



Harper mired in communion controversy
8



Jenny Yuen SUN MEDIA

Ride on

TTC Chair Adam Giambrone introduces the new website www.bikesandtransit.com yesterday in Toronto. The site urges families to use bike racks on buses so they can hop off transit and head off on trails in the GTA. P. 4

Rae defends Tory Pride grant

There should be no shame — and no punishment — for a federal cabinet minister who gave federal funds to Toronto's Pride Festival, local politicians and community organizers said Monday.

The controversy erupted Monday when it was revealed federal Tourism Minister Diane Ablonczy was pulled from a key file, weeks after granting \$400,000 to Pride Week from the Marquee Tourism Events Program.

The \$100-million Marquee program was quietly moved to Industry Minister Tony Clement two weeks ago, but his office insisted it was not due to the controversial grant.

But Toronto Councillor Kyle Rae said Ottawa's shuffling of cabinet responsibilities is a sign the old Reform Party is alive and well inside the Conservative government.

Rae speculated the Prime Minister's Office shuffled away the tourism fund from Ablonczy because key decision makers didn't trust her to have the "right backdrop and right message." But he said "(Pride) is the right backdrop and the right message."

Rae highlighted family Pride events at a Church St. school and the fact many parade-goers bring their kids.

Pride Toronto executive director Tracey Sandilands issued a statement yesterday, stressing the festival was an appropriate recipient of the funding.

— SUN MEDIA

Friday's Jackpot!



\$15,000,000

estimated

Canada ranks high in drug spending

Spending on prescription and non-prescription drugs continues to rise in Canada, making us the second-highest per-capita drug spender among western nations.

But the pharmaceutical industry says it's money well used because effective new drugs can reduce costs in other

parts of the health-care system.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development figures show Canada's pharmaceutical spending averaged US\$691 per person in 2007, up from \$644 the previous year. In 1960, the first year for which the OECD compiled data, Canadians spent just \$16 apiece

on pharmaceuticals.

The top spender in 2007 was the United States, at \$878 per capita.

Canadian drug spending also rose slightly as a slice of overall health spending, to 17.7% of the total.

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