

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Homophobia—
- World Laughter Day—
- Coffee House—
- Did you know?—
- CVITP Update—

#20 7th Street

Phone: 578-4800

Fax: 578-4950

Open 7 days a week

11:00AM-7:00PM



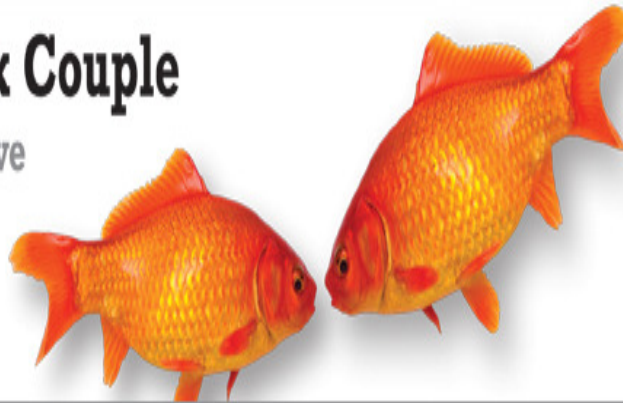
Designed by

Greg Lupier-Roziere

## Same-sex Couple

A Story of Love

homophobiaday.org



May 17

International Day  
Against Homophobia

Participate!  
This day belongs to YOU!



The **International Day Against Homophobia**, is held on May 17 every year, it is a rallying event offering an opportunity for people to get together and reach out to one another. It invites people from all walks of life to reflect on homophobia and its hurtful effects. Homophobia is the hatred or fear of homosexuality and of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and two-spirit individuals.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1973 the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental illness. In doing so, the American Psychiatric Association put an end to over a century of homophobia in the medical field.

This year the International Day Against Homophobia will focus on **Same Sex Couple's - A Story of Love**.

The goal of this campaign is to change some basic views on gay and lesbian relationships such as "What goes on in the bedroom doesn't concern me". Of course it doesn't! However, beyond this perception, there are men and women living loving and caring relationships who wish to share this happiness with their family and friends. All too often, people perceive being gay or lesbian in a narrow way in which sexual orientation is reduced to its simplest form - sex. Just as for opposite-sex couples, same-sex couple's form out of emotions and romantic feelings. Sexuality is certainly a part of a couple relationships, and it is often the sexual dimension that sparked the flame. However, a lasting couple relationship cannot be based on sexuality alone. This leads us to the campaign theme **Same-sex couple: A Story of Love**.

In recognition of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual International Day Against Homophobia SERC will be hosting an Ally Training on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Although the May 20<sup>th</sup> Ally Training is full, if you would like to attend a future training please email Pam MacKay at [pam@serc.mb.ca](mailto:pam@serc.mb.ca). During the weeks leading up to May 17<sup>th</sup>, SERC will be distributing campaign material to various schools, organizations and business's. If you would like SERC drop off some of the campaign material, please contact SERC at 727-0417.

Article adapted from [www.homophobiaday.org](http://www.homophobiaday.org)



## Community Volunteer Income Tax Program Update!

The community volunteer income tax program at 7<sup>th</sup> Street Health Access Centre started on March 2, 2011. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from March 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 volunteers were on site to meet with individuals to complete their taxes. Individuals could also drop off their tax information 7 days a week. To help make sure individuals have their tax returns completed the "Drop Off" Service will continue until September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011. *Remember, to remain eligible for credits such as GST, Universal Child Care and the Child Tax Benefit you must file your 2010 taxes!*

Did you know that this tax season.....

- There were **9** trained and very dedicated volunteers.
- Over **220** volunteer hours were logged.
- Over **436** individuals used the walk inn service.
- Over **675** individuals (and counting) used the drop off service.

We would like to thank the volunteers for their hard work and dedication through this busy tax season!

A huge thank you as well to Rena and our front desk reception staff who answered many phone calls, booked hundreds of appointments, made hundreds of calls to let people know that their tax returns were ready for pick up, and for all the other many tasks they did to help make this year another successful tax season!

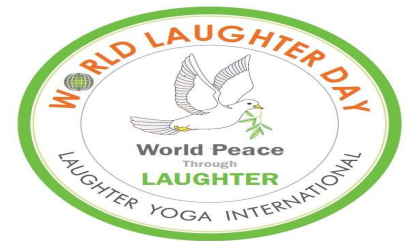


## Sunday, May 1st

### Laugh Your Way to Better Health! World Laughter Day Celebration

Join *Healthy Brandon - Living Well with Stress* and Brandon's local Laughter Leaders to boost your immune system, relieve negative stress and learn to exercise with Laughter!!

**Brandon City Hall, 2-4 p.m.**  
**410 9th Street, Brandon, MB**  
Refreshments! Prizes!  
**Cost: Free!**



7th Street Health Access Centre

**Coffee House**

Sunday May 1st, 2011

12:00-2:00

DID YOU KNOW



### In the month of March...

- The shower was used over **90** times.
- **198** loads of laundry were completed.
- **45** individuals set up community voice mail boxes.
- Currently there are **91** active community voice mail boxes.
- Over **93** faxes were sent out.
- The public phone was used over **670** times.
- Over **30** emergency meals were issued.
- There were over **55** group sessions offered in the community kitchen.