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## Male community members don heels for a cause

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### Annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes campaign raises almost \$10,000 to support women who are abuse victims

**A1** BY BRENT MAZEROLLE  
Times & TRANSCRIPT STAFF

It's a playful event with a deadly serious message.

Moncton's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes campaign was a tremendous success this year, raising nearly \$9,500 to help women in our area who are victims of domestic or sexual violence.



GREG AGNEW/TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

Moncton's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event was Friday and the campaign was a success, raising nearly \$9,500 that goes to helping women in our area who are victims of domestic or sexual violence.

But even more important than the money raised was the message the event sent, when men from all walks of life banded together to take the walk of their lives - a mile up and down Moncton's Main Street in high-heeled shoes.

The basic premise is you can't understand a person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes. And when large groups of men, many of them leaders and respected citizens, don their heels for the cause, they speak volumes about the need to change lingering attitudes.

Close to 200 men stood tall in their heels this year, a remarkable number given that just two dozen took part in the first march a few years ago.

Among them were two classes' worth of future law enforcement officers, cadets from CCNB's police foundations and corrections programs. Four Riverview firefighters and one Moncton firefighter also marched in their bunker gear and pumps, joined by Riverview's deputy mayor Don Lenehan and veteran councillor Bob Hyslop.

Hyslop found a fan in Merrill Henderson, his counterpart from Moncton city council, who joked Hyslop looked so sharp in women's shoes, "he's going to campaign in them next year."

A lot of men smiled bravely but admitted the sheer pain of wearing high heels was a big part of questioning some of the expectations society places on women.

"I thought I was going to cry by the end of it," said C-103 Breakfast Club host Troy Tait, who walked with his co-host Ernie Steeves while their co-host Mandy MacDonald cheered them on. Scotty Horsman and Tony Smith from XL96 were there too, rounding out the list of really big radio guys who both talked the talk and walked the walk this week.

The already tall Troy Tait was towering by the time organizers provided him with a pair of stilettos that didn't have height so much as altitude.

The Times & Transcript was also represented this year, and we are proud to report our photographer Ron Ward took the prize as top fundraiser, personally raising \$1,341 for the cause. For his feat of gathering more than \$1,000 in pledges, his feet were allowed to wear precious little white kitten slippers instead of heels.

Men in sharp suits became men in sharp suits and snazzy pumps as the guys from key sponsor Investors Group showed their solidarity. A Codiac Transpo bus driver and an air traffic controller were also on hand to sacrifice their feet, as were many Rotarians and various other men young and old from all walks of life.

Said Riverview's Lenehan, "next year, let's all be back and bring our friends."

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Who is helping the men that are in an abusive relationship, domestic violence ? No one. Because that never happens and if it happens most men would be too ashamed.  
Mental cruelty, domestic violence, abusive relationships happen on both sides, but rarely it is mentioned.



<http://www.batteredmen.com/batamen.htm>

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**P P, Moncton** on 22/10/11 07:46:48 AM ADT



Nice going gentlemen! I know how painful heels are to wear, but it must have been twice as painful for you guys, as I can't imagine any of those shoes fitting anyone of you! Thanks for the gesture; you will never know how much it is appreciated!

1  THUMBS UP 0  THUMBS DOWN

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**Lyn Curtis, Fredericton** on 22/10/11 08:59:07 AM ADT



So why do women feel the need to wear heels? Never understood why. Good for the guys that showed their support.

0  THUMBS UP 1  THUMBS DOWN

 FLAG AS INAPPROPRIATE

**Mike C., Miramichi** on 22/10/11 01:28:05 PM ADT

why not LOL Women try to walk in men's shoes all the time. Actually, seriously, domestic violence is proven to be 50/50 as I have posted before. Domestic violence is not right no matter the gender of the victim/perpetrator.

0  THUMBS UP 0  THUMBS DOWN

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**D. L, Arthurette** on 23/10/11 06:31:32 PM ADT

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