

Changing the World, One Pair at a Time

Ed Kolybaba

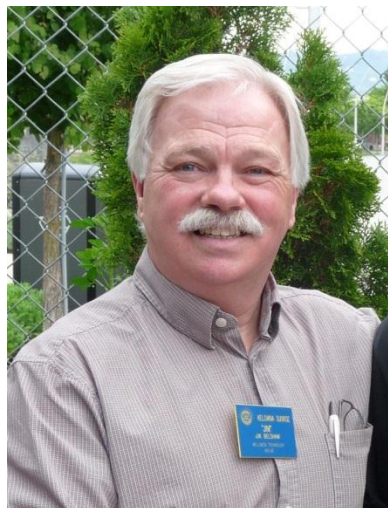
Apr 01, 2013



Soles4Souls Canada Million Shoe Mission, April 1 – 30, 2013



Soles4Souls, a Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise humanitarian program, kicked off its **4th Annual Campaign** and **Soles4Souls Month** on Tuesday, April 02. Kelowna Mayor Walter Gray and Lake Country Federal MP Ron Cannan were in attendance to support the 2013 drive along with members of the Soles4Souls Board of Directors and the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise.



The club's Million Shoe Mission for Soles4Souls started in Kelowna four years ago when Jim Belshaw of Roy's Shoe Repair was moved by the devastation caused by the

earthquake in Haiti. In February of 2010, Belshaw partnered with Soles4Souls, the international shoe charity based in Nashville. In that first year, over 45,000 pairs of shoes were collected within the Kelowna and area. In 2011, over 80,000 pairs were collected in the interior of BC through Belshaw's efforts. As the program continues, more and more shoes continue to reach the soles of children in adults around the world.

According to Soles4Souls Canada CEO Jim Belshaw and member of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise, donating used shoes to the program is "such a simple and easy thing to do." He adds that, "it is why so many men, women and children across this country have embraced our shoe drive."

Presently Soles4Souls has committed over million pairs to 129 other countries and with this commitment, the lives of many people will be dramatically changed. "Soles4Souls makes such a difference in the lives of so many and has really helped us to ensure we stay true to our core values, expressed Belshaw.

Gently used shoes can be dropped off at any McDonalds, Starbucks or Capri Insurance offices in the Okanagan. Businesses wishing to serve as drop off centres may contact the organization's website (www.soles4soulscanada.com) for further information. Soles4Souls is a Nashville-based charity that collects shoes from warehouses of footwear companies and from the closets of people. The charity distributes these shoes, free of charge, to people in need around the world. Since 2005, Soles4Souls has given away over 7 million pairs of new and gently worn shoes (currently distributing one pair every 9 seconds).

Check out the Front Page story from the April 12, 2013 edition of the *Capital News* by opening [Service Areas and Committees](#). Continue by opening [Community Service \(Related Page\)](#) and finally [Community Service News](#).