

# Beanfair founder shakes hands with fair trade farmers

By Lucy Scholey

Anne Winship, the owner of a Wakefield-based fair trade coffee business, can finally say she's met a fair trade bean farmer.

This past week, the Beanfair founder returned from a 10-day trip to Bolivia, where she picked coffee beans and shook hands with farmers in the region.

"After spending the last 15 years in the (North American) world of fair trade, I wanted to go to the source," she told the Low Down, while still jet-lagged.

Winship received funding from Canadian Crossroads International, an international development organization aimed at reducing poverty, to visit La Paz, the second largest city in Bolivia, and form new partnerships with its farmers. Three other Canadian small-business owners also went south.

Winship said she made new partners with the farmers, and Wakefielders can expect to see Bolivian coffee sitting next to the Ethiopian, Mexican and Guatemalan, which are already on store shelves throughout the



Anne Winship, owner of Beanfair Coffee, picked beans and made new fair trade partnerships with farmers in Bolivia during a recent trip.

Photo courtesy Anne Winship

village.

She described the Bolivian coffee taste as "a little bit more complex. It tastes even better because I know where it's grown."

Winship said she will distribute samples of the new coffee at the sixth annual Fair Trade Fair at the Wakefield Community Centre on May 11.

Fair trade ensures third world coffee bean producers are paid fairly for their work. La Peche municipality is certified as a Fair Trade Town, meaning

its businesses sell fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate in tandem with events and organizations, which champion the cause.