

Try a Tanner ad

Fair trade coffee offered by Trinity

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Acton's Cees Braamse is trying to convince his friends and colleagues to have a little social conscience with their morning caffeine. An item in a United Church bulletin about fair trade in coffee made Braamse question where the coffee he drank in great quantities daily was produced and traded.

That interest led Braamse to Bridgehead, a free trade organization affiliated with Oxfam Canada, which guarantees coffee farmers a fair minimum price for their crop in order to help them break the cycle of poverty and debt.

"About 5 per cent of consumers say they will pay more for fairly traded products and that's who I'm trying to sell this coffee to," Braamse said in a recent interview, adding that the coffee is not price competitive, but it is the real price. A pound of basic fair trade coffee is \$ 7.50.

"It's better to give these growers a fair price for their coffee than to import it at artificially low prices and then

have to give them aid next year," Braamse said, adding that the coffee he orders monthly is grown by farmers co-ops in Mexico and Latin America.

Braamse was quick to say that they aren't calling for a boycott of Tim Horton's or the local food stores where people usually buy their coffee.

"If somebody usually buys three pounds of coffee a month in the store maybe they could buy one or two of them from Bridgehead."

While Braamse has had some success in convincing local coffee drinkers to pay more for fair trade brew, one group at Trinity that purchases coffee for church events turned him down based on the additional cost.

Various blends and varieties of Bridgehead coffee are available by calling Braamse at 53-3661.



HELPING THOSE IN NEED: Acton resident, Melinda Stuckless, was busy Wednesday evening collecting donations for the Salvation Army. - Angela Tyler photo

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