

## COMMUNITY

# Cobourg Mother's Day fundraiser to benefit disadvantaged women

MOYA DILLON

mdillon@northumberlandnews.com

COBOURG -- This Mother's Day, families can help mothers in India provide better lives for their children with a fundraising lunch.

Port Hope resident Mallory McKay is planning a Mother's Day event to help raise funds for Canadian-based community development organization SOPAR, which was founded by a Quebec woman of Indian descent in 1977. Ms. McKay had the chance to see the work the organization is doing in India first-hand during a student internship.

"SOPAR provides local leaders with the opportunity to make the change they want to see themselves," she said.

"They provide training, tools and opportunities for communities that are interested in getting involved. Each community can then do what they want, so it's a very diverse set of projects."

During Ms. McKay's internship, from which she returned in March, she had the chance to work on a project aimed at increasing opportunities for the country's widows.

"The treatment of widows in India is horrific," Ms. McKay said, noting that through her work with SOPAR the women were encouraged to empower themselves.

"We're really trying to get the widows to be the change. We're trying to change the perspective and stigmas that lead to that treatment."

Ms. McKay will be hosting a special Mother's Day lunch to raise funds and awareness for the organiza-

tion, which will feature a slideshow of her experiences in India and the work that SOPAR is doing there.

"Right now we don't have as many reservations as I'd like, but I'd like to feel that the word was spread and be able to give a little bit of money to the cause," Ms. McKay said of her goals for the event.

"I included the slideshow as a way to tell everyone who they're helping and what their money will be going towards."

The Mother's Day lunch to benefit SOPAR will be held Sunday, May 8 at Daizies in downtown Cobourg, with sittings at noon and 2 p.m. The event will feature a raffle, prizes and craft sales, with all proceeds going to benefit SOPAR. In addition, \$2 from each meal will be donated to the cause.

**For more information or to make a reservation:**

☎ CALL 905-372-7777