

# Why local business owners keep caring.

Quality attracts quality. That truth defines why our three featured business owners in this article chose Huntsville to live and Huntsville Hospital as the cause they wanted to support.

Liz Rice is a local, serial entrepreneur. From newspaper publishing to hot dog stands and most recently the Huntsville Doppler, she's had a hand in building Huntsville for years. Pat Dubé arrived here 27 years ago and has been literally building since; Pat owns and operates Greystone Construction and related companies. Mike Harrower found Huntsville 29 years ago. Mike owns and manages commercial and industrial developments from Timmins to the Town of Simcoe. . He and his family have called Huntsville home since 1992 and love living on Fairy Lake.

These local business owners create success here, create employment here and support sustainable local growth. Each values living here deeply. And each has recently renewed their five-year commitment to Business Cares, the Huntsville Hospital Foundation initiative that unites local businesses in common cause.

We asked each of them four key questions about Business Cares and Huntsville. What follows demonstrates that quality people, quality businesses and quality healthcare are all connected.

## How's life in Huntsville?

**Liz:** I love this town. I learned how much I loved it when I left to go to university and soon found myself looking for a way to get back. You know everyone here and they know you. That feels good. It takes newcomers very little time to get the same feeling - that's unique to Huntsville.

**Mike:** I'm a small town guy (originally Timmins) and my wife Fiona is a small town girl (England). After I

left my role with iMAX in the city, we wanted to find a smaller Ontario town to call home. We wanted to find a place where winter was actually useful. As soon as Fiona got here, she knew she was home.

**Pat:** I got here when I was in my late 20s. Back then, I loved that it was so connected to nature and the outdoors, and I still love that to this day. Huntsville is growing but we won't lose that small town feeling and culture that is unique. I think our closeness to nature keeps us in tune.

## Why did you sign up for Business Cares in the first place?

**Pat:** I had joined the hospital foundation to have a role in keeping this hospital where it is. A few of us started thinking about a way for local business owners to support the hospital to a greater degree but within realistic guidelines. Business Cares was an immediate and impactful step in the right direction.

**Liz:** I signed up the first time in August 2016. At that time, the idea of not having a hospital here was unthinkable to me. What would Huntsville be without a hospital? I had thought I was doing enough by participating in different events and programs. Then I discovered Business Cares: It was more substantive and I could plan for it. That was important to me.

**Mike:** I always assumed paying my taxes was enough. Then I learned that technology and equipment weren't covered by tax dollars; that keeping this hospital up to date depended on fund-raising. I wasn't really a part of the local business economy per se but decided to get involved, and Business Cares was a great way to do it and connect with the business community here.

## Why did you renew your five-year \$25,000 Business Cares commitment?

**Mike:** To be honest, I never considered not renewing for a new five-year Business Cares commitment. As a business owner, I look at the wider audience and the wider impact. Where can I do the most good for the most people. I can't think of a better investment in staff, in community, in my business and in life here.

**Pat:** My business depends on new people coming here and doing new things. Having the hospital here supports that business vision. So my business in turn supports the hospital. We need access to talent; talent is attracted by a hospital. I want to see my community grow, so local healthcare is the natural best investment.

**Liz:** For me, the donation has become a good habit, a routine, and if I can do this for 20 more years, that's

a meaningful contribution that I have the ability to make. My question for other business owners is simple: Are you doing enough? Do you have room to do more? Would it help if you could plan for that bigger commitment and make it routine?

## What's the bottom line here for other Huntsville and area business owners?

**Liz:** We count on this hospital for more than fixing broken bones. It is the centre of our community and an economic driver for all businesses and residents. We count on it and they are counting on us.

**Mike:** I've experienced first hand what happens when a hospital is ripped out of the heart of a city (Timmins). Back then, people didn't realize the massive negative impact of that decision on the critical downtown tax base. We do now. The ROI for every donor and especially business owners is incalculable.

**Pat:** As a Business Cares partner, you get to understand the needs of the hospital. You learn how you can have an immediate impact and you may even be inspired to give beyond your commitment. Why give to your hospital? Because you recognize the importance of local healthcare to your business and your life here.

Learn more about Business Cares and support Huntsville Hospital with your commitment today.

[huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca/business-cares](https://huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca/business-cares) | 705-789-4756

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