



Two All Beef Patties, Special Sauce, Lettuce, Cheese and Beel Yaqub

What does a technology executive at RBC in the GTA do when he hits his mid-forties? He packs up his family including two teenagers, joins the McDonald's Franchise Program and moves to Huntsville Ontario. Meet Beel Yaqub, one of Huntsville's newest Business Cares participants.

When you first meet Beel, you're struck immediately by how genuinely nice this guy is. He's not greeting you with a smile at the door of his McDonald's restaurant in downtown Huntsville because he has to - it's because that's just who he is.

"After 25 years in transformative technology roles in the banking sector, I decided I wanted a transformation of my own. My wife, the kids and I, like so many others, spent a lot of time during the COVID lockdown going to drive-thrus as a way to get out of the house. McDonald's was our favourite. Put the two together (time for a change and loving McDonald's) and here I am. I joined the franchise program, learned everything about working at and running a McDonald's restaurant over 18 months and took a chance on where I would end up. I can't tell you how happy I am the two restaurants in Huntsville and one in Parry Sound all came up as a package deal. We're privileged to be here."

As a business owner in a small town, Beel saw it as "a personal and community responsibility to take care of the local hospital." Unlike the GTA where he worked and lived, he felt a closer connection between his business, his family, his employees and the local hospital.

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OUR BUSINESS CARES
PROGRAM**

"Huntsville Hospital has a tremendous impact on the community here and on all of Muskoka," says Beel. "It's about our health and well-being, our economy, attracting good growth and ensuring that continues into the future. There are many great causes here in town - all are worthy of support. That said, the hospital is the one service absolutely everyone depends on."

And why did Beel see the Foundation's Business Cares program as a perfect fit for his business and his employees?

"Business Cares is a five-year contribution commitment that you make between your company and the hospital. As such, it is designed so that businesses and their owners can help

actually power the hospital's success. The more business owners participate, the more likely it is our hospital will stay current. Just as important, my team here at the restaurant appreciates my support of their local hospital. They love doing the events we put on - they are energized by that because they and their families depend on local healthcare. It's a win all around."

Any closing remarks Beel?

"Our community deserves the best healthcare services the hospital can offer. The more businesses that commit to the Business Cares program, the higher the chances of achieving this goal."

Muskoka's MRI Has Landed - Literally!

We are sometimes asked about the specific impact of dollars donated to the Huntsville Hospital Foundation. Muskoka's first MRI is a good example that illustrates the exact impact of local hospital giving. Two thousand, four hundred and sixty donations (2,460) from just north of Orillia to South River, Haliburton to Parry Sound and Huntsville in between gave between \$5 and \$1 million to help us meet our \$10 million goal.

Every single gift made a big difference. Because of you, patients now have access to MRI services right here at Huntsville Hospital. That means less travel, lower stress, shorter wait times, and faster diagnoses and treatment, here.

Clarity both in diagnosis and in being able to thank each donor for their generosity is a wonderful outcome indeed. That is the impact.

MRI set up and testing was completed between June 30, 2025 and July 7, 2025. By the time you read this Huntsville Hospital Foundation update, patients in and around Muskoka will have already benefitted from our new MRI. Who knows, maybe you already have an appointment.



In the words of Foundation CEO, Katherine Craine: "Our ability to come together as a community of donors in and around Muskoka has demonstrated the great heart and capacity of this region as new hospital development is the next big ticket item on our agenda. Every donor has inspired us. Thank you one and all!!!!"



Dr. Ryan McAnuff: Short Track Speed Skater, Long Distance Runner and The Doctor You Want Bedside in an Emergency.

Dr. Ryan McAnuff is a new family physician and emergency department doctor in Huntsville. He's traveled the world to get here, sometimes on speed skates and now in marathon runner's shoes. One of the reasons he's here is the phenomenal community support he sees for the local hospital.



Future State Update

Stay informed and learn more about Muskoka's multi-site regional hospital redevelopment. Visit [MadelnMuskokaHealthcare.ca](https://www.madelnmuskokahealthcare.ca) for details.

How did a world-class short track skater end up in medicine in Huntsville?

I grew up in Oakville, Ontario, and got into short track speed-skating as a child. I was fortunate to have access to great coaches and facilities, and I trained hard to reach the World Cup level. I did my undergrad at Bishop's University and went to medical school in Ireland, finishing up my family medicine residency at McMaster in Hamilton. So, you could say I've covered a lot of ground.

But, apart from coming to love Algonquin and the Huntsville area early on in life, one of the reasons I'm here is my wife's family is in Huntsville - she's a member of the local Sutherland clan. So, Huntsville was an easy choice. I did two electives here during my residency training to test the community out. Now, it's home and we have a 15-month old son who will grow up Huntsville through and through.

Apart from being a dad, a husband and a physician, what do you love doing?

In my downtime, I run. It gives me time to think and decompress while maintaining a high level of fitness which is important to me. I've run in the Muskoka, New York and Toronto Marathons and in the next year, I will be running in the Chicago and Boston Marathons. One of my favourite local routes is from home in downtown Huntsville to Arrowhead Park, around the trails and back again. It gets the heart rate going.

A lot of healthcare professionals in the Huntsville area are also runners - it's a great group and one of the many ways the healthcare community comes together in Huntsville.

What's the difference between practicing medicine in Huntsville and doing the same thing in the GTA or any other major urban center?

There are several differences. One is supportive - I've felt welcome here since the day I arrived. Everyone has been helpful. If I need advice about a patient I'm seeing in an emergency, I can text the person's family physician here in town for unique insights or perspectives. That would never happen in the GTA.

Another important difference is that the scope of rural family medicine is much wider than that practiced in larger urban centres. It is far more comprehensive here. You're presented with so many unique opportunities as a rural physician that give you a chance to practice broadly. You have to learn how to manage a diverse patient population regardless of their challenges.

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promise.

ISSUE 4.0 SUMMER, 2025

Impact stories that inspire stewardship today, transparency always and fact-based updates on what the future promises.

That's a great segue to our next topic: Why is the new Central Patient Monitoring System so important?

Fundraising for our new Central Patient Monitoring System supports our ability to have eyes on multiple patients with multiple challenges all the time from one place. The system gives the whole emergency team better patient visibility without always having to be in the same room. Constant monitoring provides a patient picture that is ongoing. And that leads to more immediate, better care.

What is the impact of new technology on attracting new, young professionals to Muskoka?

There is so much new technology coming (MRI updates, CT updates, endoscopic and surgery tools, and everything coming out of AI advances);

“...All of it helps us do more and better medicine right here in Huntsville. Having the technology here means patients don't have to travel or experience the stress of being away from loved ones while receiving care.”

In addition, new and graduating physicians want to know the community they will practice in has access to the best equipment and technology. It's hard to practice medicine the way you've been taught without the right tools. We all look for it when choosing where to practice. Huntsville Hospital (MAHC) ticks all the boxes thanks to the high level of community support.

Any message for donors?

Thank you is the first thing that comes to mind. Thank you for caring and for giving. Huntsville Hospital is a great community hospital and an even better investment for everyone who lives here part-time or full-time. When time matters in healthcare, as it so often does, we're here for everyone. Thank you for being here for us.



Thanks to you...

Local business owner Mark Tulloch has been a proud contributor to the Huntsville Hospital Foundation Business Cares program since October, 2021. And even better, he has now renewed his commitment for another five years! As Muskoka begins to prepare for hospital redevelopment, it's thanks to donors like Mark (pictured above) and thousands of others in and around Huntsville, Baysville, Algonquin and Almaguin that we have great confidence in our capacity for generosity and support.

Help us keep our promise to ensure and pay for continuing hospital improvements in Muskoka. Please give today!

705.789.4756 | meaghan.byernes@mahc.ca
huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca

4-100 Frank Miller Drive
Huntsville ON P1H 1H7

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