

Going WAYBACK to a Time of Kindness!

Written by: Rick Roschuk | Independent

For three days in August, Friday the 21st through to Sunday the 23rd, the Ownership and staff from Wayback Burgers at 1-1122 Henderson Hwy, celebrated a belated official 'Grand Opening' for this location. Originally opening late January of this year, they have worked studiously to get entrenched in the local and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Well, as locals in this part of town, we'd fallen in love with the Wayback product when visiting other locations around the city. When they opened in our neighbourhood, WOW, lottery win.

After numerous visits, we were blessed one day to be greeted and introduced to the Location Owner, MJ. What followed, was a wondrous story of coming to Canada with his family, going through the hoops of opening his first location on Pembina Hwy and the subsequent opening this year of Henderson Hwy.

During one of these visits, MJ mentioned his passion and desire to share his good fortunes with those in need in our community, something well practiced back home in India. His love for Canada and our community made it easy for him to decide he wanted to do something here, and to do it while celebrating Henderson Hwy's grand opening. But what? How? Who?

So, we suggested two different ideas for him to fulfill his wish. The first one, was Friday August 21st, and would be for the amazing folks at the Main Street Project. Lindsay Felstead, Development Specialist at The Main Street Project summed up event No. 1 as such;

"Food is a basic right. It not only nourishes the body, but it can bring people together, show care, respect and kindness, and make someone's day a little easier, brighter. Good food multiplies these effects."



Wayback Burgers owner and staff - Henderson Hwy location.

On Friday, August 21st, Wayback Burgers on Henderson Hwy, set up outside Main Street Project's Food Bank and Essentials Market and distributed some really good food. Handing out over 250 burgers, chips and waters to our community, the Wayback Burgers team was kind, generous and friendly as many gathered to enjoy a real treat! Word spread fast and the food didn't last long.

The appreciation of our team, and those who enjoyed this event, is ongoing! Thank you, Wayback Burgers on Henderson Hwy!"

*~ Lindsay Felstead, Development Specialist
The Main Street Project*

Outstanding! My interview later that day with MJ and his staff was magical, the smiles, the joy of a job well-done, the sense of community and the success from working in concert with The Main Street Project crew had them glowing. Day 1 of the 'Grand Opening' was a huge hit.

Day 2: had its own charm as word was spread throughout the community in the weeks leading up to the weekend that the 'Grand Opening' was at hand. The com-

munity showed up including City Counselor – Jeff Browaty & guest, as more magic was shared that day as well!

Day 3: Weeks earlier, Samantha Pugh, Executive Director at Good Neighbours Active Living on Henderson Hwy was contacted and Round 2 of 'Burger Philanthropy 101' was hatched. On Sunday, August 23rd, Wayback Burgers on Henderson Hwy, through the GNALC Seniors Meals Program, delivered another 250+ burgers, Chips, Water and more to 1080-1100 Henderson Hwy and 210-220 Oakland Ave Seniors Apartments.

"MJ and his team delivered over 200 burgers to older adults who live at 1080 & 1100 Henderson Highway and 210 & 220 Oakland Ave., during lunch. To our surprise and excitement, MJ and his team provided chips, taters, drinks and dessert in addition to the burgers. It was a full meal deal! GNALC staff and volunteers served the delicious meals to the seniors, while MJ and his staff had an opportunity to meet the tenants who live at these apartment buildings."

MJ and his team at Wayback Burgers not only prepare the best burgers and fries, but

their compassion and commitment to the community are a true testament to what a local business can be. Their kindness, generosity, and community-minded spirit make them truly special. We're lucky to have them in our community!"

*~ Samantha Pugh, Executive Director
Good Neighbours Active Living*

In closing, there is so much more we could discuss here, but the bottom line, is a good line. In a world that's hurting, there are still angels out there doing great things. Things without an agenda or a return required. This family who now calls Canada their home, held a mirror to many faces, a mirror that reminds us that a single act of random kindness is a beautiful ripple of hope. These ripples, are actually 'Waves', making a difference in hundreds of lives, if for just one day. 500 Burgers, plus chips, waters & desserts! Amazing!

Thank you, MJ and Wayback Burgers on Henderson Hwy for reminding us how it's done, by showing us how to do it! ■

