



# Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

P.O. Box 962, Brighton, ON K0K 1H0

[www.PresquilePointLighthouse.ca](http://www.PresquilePointLighthouse.ca)



## Our Newsletter #3 of July 11, 2014

*We  
Are  
On  
Our  
Way!*



It is with great excitement that we announce we have signed a contract with the “**Andre Scheinman Heritage Preservation Consultant**” firm from Kingston to begin Phase I of our 3 Phase program to restore our Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse.

Phase I is the Engineering Study to determine structural strength of the structure and provide options to restore the lighthouse.

Phase II will be preparation of the engineering drawing and specifications for the restoration project.

And, of course, Phase III will be the actual restoration itself.

*Now, we need you support, more than ever!*

### WORDS FROM NORMAN BASTIN, CHAIRPERSON OF KOPPLA

I am pleased to say this has been a very productive spring. The Directors have been working diligently with the Engineering “Request For Proposal” study and many other pressing issues.

We are most grateful to all who gave of their time volunteering at our past fundraising and membership drive events and to those that have made generous donations – without this, our goal and vision would never happen.

There will be a continued need for enthusiastic volunteers to take part in our major 2015 celebration as we celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse. Those wishing to take part and/or if you have ideas you wish to bring forth to us, please let us know. It would certainly be appreciated.

Let's all help and “*Let Our Light Shine!*”

**KOPPLA - KEEPERS OF PRESQU'ILE POINT  
LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION**



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## A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As we enter into the hot summer days, we want to thank each and every member of our Society for supporting us along the way of achieving our Goal. Your Board of Directors have been quite hard at work volunteering their time cheerfully to accomplish what we all want – to preserve our local Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse for future generations to come.

During the past few months, here are some of our activities:

- Membership drives such as the one at Sobey's in late January.
  - *If you were one of the new members that signed up that weekend, you know how cold it was for our volunteers (aka-- the heater was broken at the entrance!).*
- Provide community education about our activities by ongoing seminars.
  - *If you know of a group that would be interested in hearing about our cause, please let us know.*
- Working with Ontario Parks (Presqu'ile Provincial Park) management team to establish a Memorandum of Understanding the MOU between the two parties.
  - *This has been a very slow process - not to be cruel to those involved in the legal field, but sometimes, lawyers make things far too complicated. All we can tell you now, is that we should be close to establishing the MOU for our activities.*
- Completed Phase One of the Engineering Request For Proposal (RFP) – more later in this newsletter
- Redesigning of our website to make it more user-friendly. We hope for a re-launch in late summer
- Finally, after many months of gov't lost paperwork, we received our Charitable Tax Status
  - *Which means we can now provide tax receipts for our membership fees and any other donations*
- And fund raisers in various small ways.
  - *Even Director Dave Sharp has been selling some firewood off his property and all proceeds have gone to the Society. Just give him a call or email to come by and pick it up. Only \$40 a half-ton truck load (or for another donation of \$20 to the Lighthouse, he will deliver in town!)*
  - *And, of course, all of our members paying their 2014 membership fees – see more details herein!*

And, there is more to come in the months ahead...

- More membership drives will be done.
  - *Please consider volunteering some time at our August 7-9 drive at Mike & Lori's No Frills.*
- Complete Phase Two of the RFP --see more details elsewhere in this newsletter
  - *That will provide us with the details, etc that will allow various firms to bid the restoration project*
- Completion of Phase Three of the RFP
  - *that will provide us with projected costs for the restoration of the lighthouse*
- Launching of our new website
  - *Including on-line payment/donation options*
- And, of course, some major fundraising.
  - *And, again, we will need lots of help.*

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## Lighthouse Corn Maze

at

## Cricklewood Farm

Opening Aug. 2, 2014



We are pleased to be able to work with the Siwicky family in their presentation of the Lighthouse corn maze from August to November this year. This will be a lot of fun and a great fundraising opportunity for the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society. Not only will it generate extra funds for us, it will create more awareness for the need to preserve our local lighthouse.

Many of us have enjoyed the family time walking through the corn mazes they have created over the years. And, it is fantastic that the Siwicky family donate a portion of the proceeds towards local charities. We are pleased that they have chosen to support the restoration of our local Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse in 2014.

So, later this summer, as the corn matures and the lighthouse maze is ready to go, please come out and visit the maze - just west of Brighton on Hwy #2. You will have a great time at Cricklewood Farm.

### Charity Registration Status

Recall back in November, we had achieved our Not-For-Profit incorporation papers and had to submit our last bit of paperwork for the actual CRA Charitable Registration status number. Our expectation was that it would take a few weeks - instead it took four months. Our CRA number is 834494437.

There have been some questions out there regarding the tax deductibility of our membership fees. We are working with the CRA to get an official ruling over how we can treat the tax deductibility (*as a charitable donation*) of the membership fees.

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## **Membership Status**

Support for the lighthouse restoration project has been overwhelming over the past year. In the bitterly cold month of January, the Presqu'île Point Lighthouse Preservation Society carried out a very successful membership drive at Sobeys in downtown Brighton. The Society enrolled 29 new members plus one renewing member. In addition, a number of cash donations were made allowing our Society to raise \$1,348.00 during this membership drive.

In August, another membership drive is scheduled to occur at the No Frills grocery store in Brighton.

Just a reminder to all our members that this is an annual membership and it needs to be renewed on an annual basis. We hope to have all your continued support as we approach the government for financial assistance in the future we will need as many members as possible to show that the community wants the lighthouse restored

The individual or family membership fee is \$20.00 per year. Corporate memberships of \$100.00 or \$500.00 may also be purchased. And of course, donations of any amount will be graciously accepted. By purchasing a membership, it not only allows us to raise a few dollars, but more importantly, it is an expression of your support to our cause of restoring the Presqu'île Point Lighthouse.

The Society recently approved a motion to extend memberships purchased in 2014 to continue in effect until March 31, 2015 which coincides with our Society end of fiscal year. A Notice of Motion to amend the membership section of our Society ByLaws at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you purchased a membership in 2013 and would like to renew for 2014; please contact us.

## **Engineering Status**

As noted in our initial newsletter, once the Memorandum of Understanding is finalized, the next step is to officially source out a qualified engineering firm that understands heritage buildings. Their role will be to give us a report on the actual physical status of the lighthouse. What is the degree of wood rot? What is the degree of deterioration of the stone structure that supports the external shell of shingles? Can the lighthouse be saved? Can our lighthouse be restored? And of course, what will it cost to bring it back to the condition that will make us proud of our efforts?

It continues to be premature to throw around costs on the actual final repair bills and even when we start the process, who knows what unexpected curveballs we or the engineers will find.

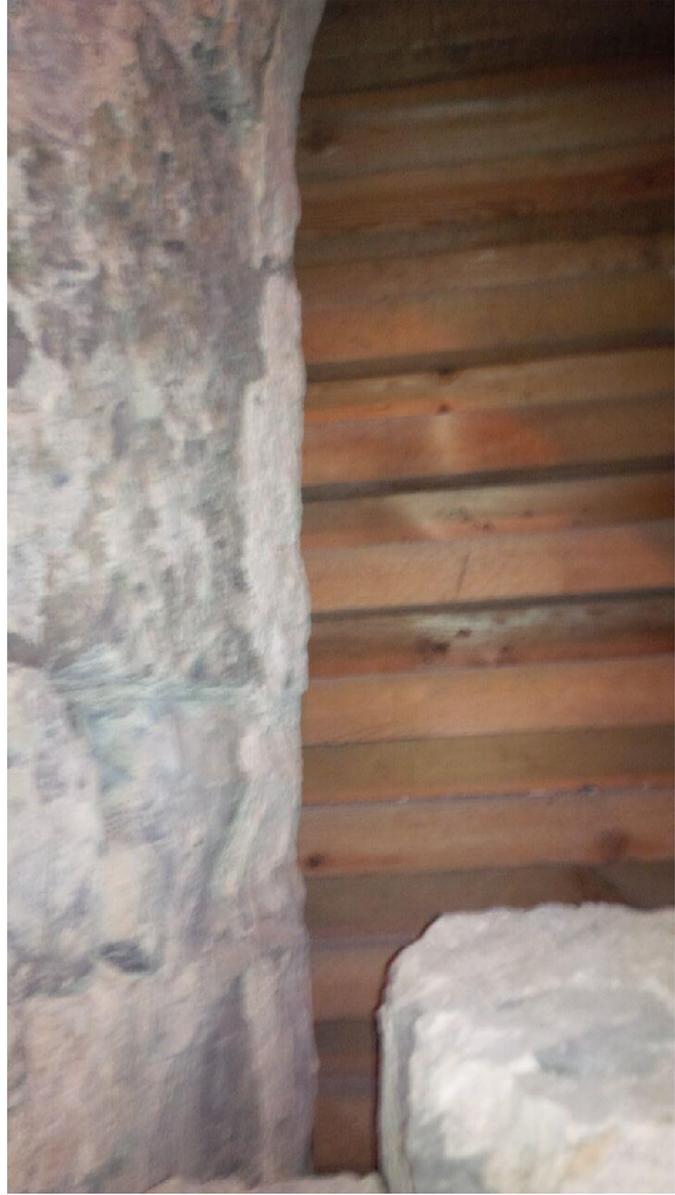
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Few of us have been able to get inside the Lighthouse so we felt it would be good to show you some extremes. The picture on the left is showing significant deterioration of the lathe stucco that was applied and also of the surrounding stone work. Yet, the picture on the right is looking out a window that has been covered with the outside shingles that look remarkably well kept.

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## Construction History of the Lighthouse

Our light house was built in 1840. It was a period when lighthouses were being built all around the great lakes. Shipping was the major form of transport and lighthouses were the only option as aids to navigation. In a time of GPS and cell phones it is difficult for us to imagine the problems encountered by those early settlers of Canada. There were very few steam engines; the first steam boat that used a propeller was in built 1842. There were steam paddle boats before that but they were mostly river boats more applicable to calm waters.

It helps to know something about navigation under sail. The prevailing wind is west which means that travelling from Toronto to Kingston was very easy whereas going the other way was a difficult trip. The only way to do it was to tack completely across the lake, change tack at the American shore and then change again as the Canadian shore was approached. Ships could take two or three days tacking back and forth across the lake to make westward progress. Every approach to either shore was perilous especially at night or in bad weather and the lighthouse was their only way of knowing where they were!

Prince Edward County was particularly bad since tacking past Point Petre puts a sailing ship on a lee shore. The Presqu'ile light was a safe harbour and an important positional point when tacking westward to Hamilton and Toronto from Kingston and Montreal.

Lighthouses were built mostly of stone but there were wooden ones as well. It was decided to build the Prequ'ile lighthouse out of stone. Local limestone was used even though there were recommendations to use Kingston limestone. There is a difference of opinion about the quality of local limestone. There are many other local buildings made of local stone and they are just fine. It will be one of the revelations of the assessment whether the stone deteriorated or not. We don't know the condition of the stone yet, but that is a part of the story that will be explained.

In those days the only mortar available was lime which was almost always made on site. Lime mortar is made by roasting limestone to make quick lime and then adding water, or slaking it, to make slaked lime. This is mixed with sand and that is your mortar. The quality of the mortar is very variable due to roasting temperatures, time of roasting and storage of the mortar. The type of sand is a factor of quality too and crushed rock sand was recommended but was not used. In 1840 the availability of crushed rock sand at Presqu'isle probably made it very expensive or even unavailable. Crushed rock sand has sharp, pointy grains which make it very good for use in mortar but beach sand has round grains which are not so good but beach sand was widely available.

Within only two years of finishing the lighthouse it was leaking water and there is much discussion as to why. Local legend has it that the stone was inferior but many of us suspect that the real problem was the mortar and possibly the dressing and fitting of the stone. Lime mortar is best when used in small quantities, which requires the stones to be dressed square. A combination of poorly dressed and fitted stones and possibly poor quality mortar could be a more realistic reason for deterioration of the condition of the lighthouse.

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The lighthouse is constructed with an inner wall and an outer wall with a rubble filled cavity between. Ideally the rubble would have been semi-fitted with mortar but we have no idea if mortar was used. One of the problems with lime mortar is that it is not waterproof, very slowly, over years it can wash out. We believe that the mortar began to wash out almost as soon as the lighthouse was built. It is an interesting historical note that the Romans had developed waterproof mortar but the knowledge had been lost and was not re-discovered till 1850 in England and was called Portland cement which is still in extensive use today.

As the years went by more and more mortar was washed out of the joins between the limestone blocks and cavities were forming inside the walls. These cavities filled with water and the action of frost started to further deteriorate the structure. By 1894 the condition of the lighthouse was considered critical and it was decided to surround the lighthouse top to bottom with very substantial timbers and iron hoops. These timbers and hoops would form a crib and hold the stone in place but would also provide a base for the addition of cedar shingles to keep out the rain. We have no record of who designed this but it worked very well and after 120 years is still doing a fine job!

After 175 years; the lighthouse needs a little help. We don't know the condition of the stone under the timber and we don't know the condition of the timber itself. We do know that there are extensive cavities within the walls and we do know that these cavities have concentrated loads at the windows resulting in some deterioration around the windows.

Luckily for the lighthouse, it has survived long enough to take advantage of some very modern methods and materials that can restore it to its original 1840 or 1894 condition. We have very good grouts that can be pumped into the voids and we have stainless steel ties that can be used to invisibly hold the stones together. We have much, much more but many old limestone buildings have been restored to their original splendor and it is our intention to make our lighthouse one of them.

We are currently arranging for an inspection and engineering report which will lead to recommendations for a total restoration. Then, we work with the engineers to develop technical drawings and specifications which will be used to get tenders so that we can select a company to do the work. These drawings and specs will also be needed for the planning departments and various government bodies that will be involved with the restoration of the lighthouse.

It is early days but we have made a start and ***will need a lot of your help***. Thanks.

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<i><b>We Need You To Volunteer!</b></i>	
<p><b><u>Meet Your Board</u></b></p> <p>Chairperson. Norman Bastin (613) 475-3272 <a href="mailto:NBastin@Koppla.ca">NBastin@Koppla.ca</a></p>	<p><b><u>Membership Drive - August 7-9</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday-Saturday, Aug, 7-8-9 @ Mike &amp; Lori's No Frills, Brighton</li> <li>• We need volunteers to work a two hour shift during Thursday or Friday from 12:00-8:00pm &amp; on Saturday from 10:00am-6:00pm</li> </ul>
<p>Secretary John Warner (613) 475-1619 <a href="mailto:JWarner@Koppla.ca">JWarner@Koppla.ca</a></p>	<p><b><u>Fundraising Committee – Sept/Oct Evening</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would like to have a fundraising dinner/gala/event sometime this late September to help raise funds for the engineering study</li> <li>• We need a Coordinator to come up with some ideas on how to make this successful - both for the attendees and for the Society financially - and of course, manage the event</li> <li>• We would then, need numerous other volunteers to assist the Coordinator for that evening</li> </ul>
<p>Treasurer Mike Nicholson (613) 475-3646 <a href="mailto:MNicholson@Koppla.ca">MNicholson@Koppla.ca</a></p>	<p><b><u>Applefest Booth</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When: Saturday, September 27, 2014</li> <li>• Where: Main St, Brighton</li> <li>• What: Assist in raffle ticket sales and/or selling of membership</li> </ul>
<p>Director Dave Sharp (613) 475-5109 <a href="mailto:DSharp@Koppla.ca">DSharp@Koppla.ca</a></p>	<p><b><u>FaceBook Administrator</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need someone to start a <b>FaceBook</b> page and administer it on a regular basis</li> </ul>
<p>Director Dan Buchanan (613) 439-8992 <a href="mailto:DBuchanan@Koppla.ca">DBuchanan@Koppla.ca</a></p>	<p><b><u>Phone Committee CoOrdinator</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need someone to coordinate this committee which would be responsible for phoning members and friends related to such issues as membership dues or volunteering!</li> </ul>
<p>Director Spencer Dennis (613) 475-1926 <a href="mailto:SDennis@Koppla.ca">SDennis@Koppla.ca</a></p>	<p><b><u>175th Anniversary CoOrdinator</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In July 17-19, 2015; we celebrate the <b>175th anniversary of our lighthouse</b>. And, so we need someone to coordinate activities during a 3-7 day period. This critical task starts now.</li> <li>• This will involve fundraising activities, bbq's and whatever other ideas you and your team come up with.</li> <li>• Several subcommittees will be needed including one to organize a <b>run, walk, or bike event</b> that weekend</li> </ul>
<p>Director Phil Badham (613) 392-7327 <a href="mailto:PBadham@Koppla.ca">PBadham@Koppla.ca</a></p> <p>Would you like to be a Director? Please contact any of the Directors above!</p>	

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Come Join Us At Our First

## *Annual General Meeting*

Monday, September 7, 2014 @ 7:00pm

Location: King Edward Park Community Centre

Agenda: Review of Engineering Study & Future Steps  
Review of Financial Statements  
Discussion on Fund Raising Ideas  
Review of Volunteer Needs  
Election of Board of Directors

Refreshments Will Be Served

Please reserve your spot to [DSharp@Koppla.ca](mailto:DSharp@Koppla.ca)  
Or call 613-475-5109

### **Amendment to ByLaws of KOPPLA**

**Purpose of change.** At present, the membership year runs from Jan.1 to Dec. 31. Our Financial year runs from April 1 to March 31<sup>st</sup> of the next calendar year. The proposed change in bylaws will align the Society membership year with the financial year. This change will also provide for a membership purchased after Jan. 1 to be continued in effect until March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year (providing up to 15 months of membership).

**Clause 3. vi) presently states:** All categories of membership shall upon subscription to membership, at any time during the period January 1 - December 31, be members from the date of receipt until the end of the calendar year in which the subscription was received.

**To be replaced with:** All categories of membership shall upon subscription to membership, at any time during the period from April 1 - March 31, be members from the date of receipt until the end of March of the following calendar year in which the subscription was received.

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## **History Buffs - History of Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse - #3: The Architect and the Plans**

As you know from our first two editions' we plan to tell you the story about our Lighthouse and thanks to our local historian, Dan Buchanan; we will continue on with Chapter 3 which tells you more about the architect and the plans for the lighthouse.

In 1828 a young, energetic and very ambitious Scot named Nicol Hugh Baird (1796-1849) arrived in Canada with letters of recommendation from the Duke of Montrose and Thomas Telford, a prominent British engineer. By the middle of July he was employed as the Clerk of Works for the construction of the Rideau Canal which had begun just two years earlier. Baird impressed the authorities so much that Lieutenant-Colonel John By supported his commission by the provincial government to "survey the mouth of the Trent River and design a bridge to span it". He also was admitted into the Institution of Civil Engineers, of which Thomas Telford was chairman. He was a young man on the rise.



Baird was involved in many civil engineering projects during the 1830s and 1840s, the most extensive being the planning for building the Trent Waterway. He was a proponent of the idea that an inland canal, from Trent Port (later called Trenton) to Lake Simcoe, would one day rival the Welland Canal in moving goods east and west through Upper Canada.

The main problem with all these plans was that the government of the time had very little money. Most funding came from investors in England and the Mackenzie Rebellion put a stop to that kind of activity for a while. A large infusion of cash was arranged shortly after the Rebellion but much of that money was misdirected and ambitious engineering projects were left underfunded and usually unfinished.

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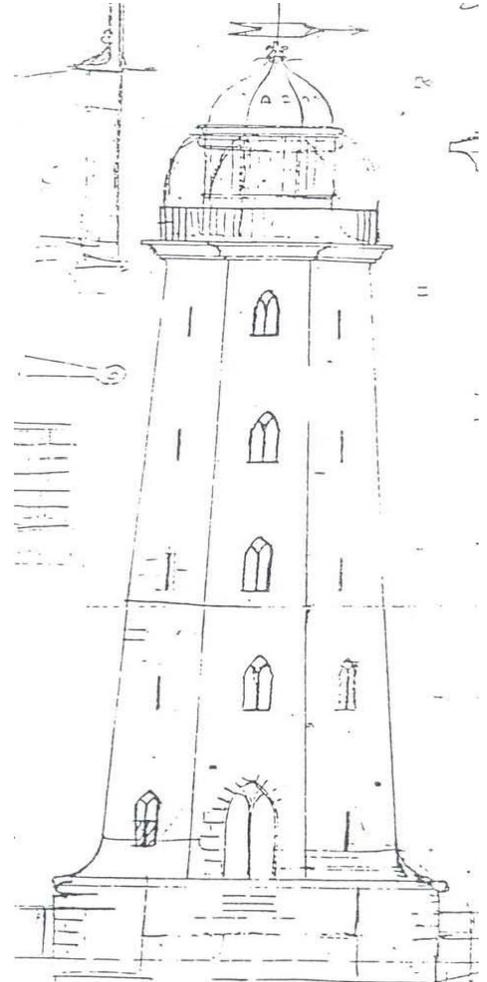
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One small project on Mr. Baird's list moved ahead as planned – the building of a lighthouse on Presqu'île Point. On July 29, 1837, Baird met with the “Commissioners for superintending the erection of a Light House at Presqu'île Point” and the group toured Presqu'île Point with the objective of deciding on the best location for a lighthouse.

The Engineer recommended the “far south-easterly part of the Peninsula commonly known as Gibson's Point” and the Commissioners agreed. Advertisements for Tender were issued on the same day and shortly afterward they concluded an agreement with Mr. John McLeod for the construction of the lighthouse “including the Lantern, &c., at the sum of £1,050”.

Then, on August 10, 1837, Mr. Baird provided the Commissioners with a report titled “Specifications for the Erection of a Lighthouse Presque Isle Point”. It stipulated a building 69 feet tall with a base 30 feet square placed a distance of 75 feet from the lake shore. The three page document is detailed and specific, revealing a structure designed to fulfill an important function but with style and even a bit of flare in its outward appearance. Care was taken to include safety features like well fastened hand railings as well. The last sentence says “The whole to be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1838”. After many years of anticipation, the Presqu'île Point Lighthouse was going to become a reality.



## In Closing:

*On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Presqu'île Point Lighthouse Preservation Society, we thank you for becoming a KOPPLA member and supporting the cause of preserving our lighthouse down at Presqu'île Point.*

*We ask three things of our members.....*

- 1. Spread the word about our work and encourage others to become a member and make a donation. Ask them to also spread the word.*
- 2. Be involved in our Society and become a Director or other volunteer supporter.*
- 3. Have faith that we can succeed in the months and years ahead.*

*Regards and thank you again.*

*Dave Sharp  
Volunteer Director of Marketing  
613-475-5109*

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*We Are Celebrating 175 Years*

*In Mid-2015*

*Stay Tuned For Exciting Activities  
That Will Involve The Entire Community*

*Do You Want To Volunteer?*

*Ask Us How!*



**Our Major Corporate Sponsors Include:**



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