

Newsletter of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 • JULY 2017

2 Michael Anne Drive, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON LOK 1E0

Email: branch270@rogers.com • www.coldwaterlegion.com • www.facebook.com/ColdwaterLegion



just any birthday: the 150th! It was certainly worth celebrating, and the Coldwater community came through with flying colours – literally. On Saturday July 1st, the village opened its streets to hundreds of visitors, many dressed in red & white. Even

Yes, Happy Birthday Canada!! And not some of the trees on the main street were a big part of it, coordinating the had been "yarn-bombed" in red & opening ceremony at the Cenotaph, white. The street was closed to traffic operating "The Big Tent" in our parking for the afternoon to yield space for bouncing castles and dinner tables (dinner tickets sold out). Everyone had a wonderful time. And, of course, members of the Coldwater Legion commitment.

lot throughout the day and evening, and leading the parade through a cheering Coldwater crowd. This was a lot of fun, but also a lot of work and

THANK YOU ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED AND HELPED IN ANY WAY!!





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FROM THE BOARD

Comrades,

I took over the Chair of the Board of Management on June 1st. All signing authorities at the Bank were changed to reflect this change in the Board. The transition has been fairly smooth and all programs are working normally.



Since taking over, with the help of the executive, we have cleared up a few minor problems and are moving forward to implement some other improvements that are still necessary.

There was a discussion at the executive meeting concerning needed repairs and upgrades for the branch and how we are going to pay for them. Our Air conditioning units in the upstairs hall are now about 13 years old and near the end of life for this type of unit. It is not realistic at this time to replace these units because of the costs, approx. \$12,000 per unit. At the General meeting a motion to open a building account to set aside money for these types of capital expenses was made and carried. We are also looking at whatever grants we may be eligible to apply for to assist with this project.

I have also received a Letter of Resignation from Carl Swanson our Poppy Chairman and am now looking for another Chairman. There is a need for a competent person as the Poppy season is just around the corner. The inventory has been completed on our Poppy supplies and we are in good shape to start off with but we still need a person who will be able to organize and support the entire campaign. Thanks go out to all our volunteers who helped out with Decoration Day this year to make it another successful event.

In the near future there will be seminars put on by the District for all Standing Committee Chairs and I suggest that all executive members and all members, who are interested, attend these seminars. They are a great way to learn about Legion and how committees are supposed to operate.

Over the next few months I will be working on training and development for the transition from the Board of Management to the return of the daily operation of the Branch by Branch members. A number of Control procedures have been put in place to safeguard the financial interests of the Branch and with continued use of these procedures we should not see the return of instability this branch has seen in the past. We will be suspending

the General information meetings for the months of July and August with a return to our General meetings starting up in September. We will still be having monthly executive meetings throughout the summer months. Information will be available through the Maple Leaf to all branch members as well as the Branch web page and Facebook page for any important developments over the summer.

I would like to thank all members who have volunteered their services to the branch. I would also like to thank all members who came to the General meeting and made comments on things that are happening in the branch. It helps me get to know this branch better. I am always open to discuss any concerns with any branch member.

Bob Ladouceur, BOM Chairman

GENERAL MEETINGS

We remind you that there will be no General Meetings in July and August. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 27. Enjoy your summer.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Submitted by Comrade Debbie Robitaille, Youth Education Chairperson

I had the opportunity to meet with our liaison from the Coldwater Public School. During our meeting we discussed the contest for the posters and poems and the public speaking contest.

For the school year 2017-18 we will attend the school's October assembly (mid to end of the month) and will discuss with all the students the requirements for our Remembrance Day contest. I asked what the students are interested in so I can come up with discussions. Some common questions are how many were in a regiment; how many lost; where you can sign up;; different division of service, and of course weapons and training experiences. Next month I will be ensuring there is enough info packages available for all students (approx. 430).

The Legion was also contacted by Community Safety Net, and I will be meeting on July 10 with Paul Bead, our local representative with this organization.

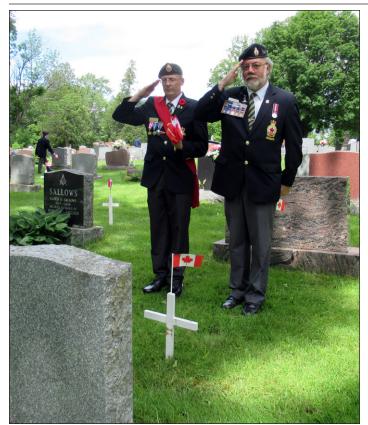
I wish everyone a safe, warm and DRIER summer.

CANTEEN SUMMER HOURS

TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY 11:30 - 14:30 WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 11:30 - 18:30

Michele Russell, Proprietor

Contact the Branch (705-686-3388) to order.



Sunday June 25th - Decoration Day: Sergeant-at-Arms Dave Robitaille (left) and Board Chairman Bob Ladouceur salute after placing a flag by the grave of a Veteran.

POPPY CAMPAIGN

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Acting-Poppy Chairperson

We are searching for a new Poppy Chair to replace Carl Swanson who has submitted his resignation. Carl will help but cannot devote the time required to be Chair. *Please put up your hand – commit to assist your LEGION!*

Thank you to those who came out on June 23 to help place the crosses at the graves for Decoration Day on the following Sunday. We had at least 30 people return to the branch after the service for the light lunch the Ladies Auxiliary had organized for us. Thank you to the ladies for such a nice spread. I believe all of the guests appreciated the opportunity to sit and reminisce after the service and decorating the graves. This year we decided to leave the crosses and flags at the cemetery until after July 1st to honour our Veterans on Canada Day.

If anyone is interested in attending the **Warriors' Day Parade** at the Canadian National Exhibition, **Saturday**, **August 19**, please let me know. It would be nice to have a contingent from the Georgian Bay area march in that parade. Maybe we could put a bus load together starting with Parry Sound and work our way south.

ENTERTAINMENT

Submitted by Comrade Michele Russell, Entertainment Chairperson

We thank everyone who took part in our Canada Day event. It was a huge success. Once again, entertainer Rebecca Pascall was a hit in the afternoon, and The Penny Love Band performed in the evening, all in "The Big Tent". Our BBQ raffle went very well. I want to thank Debbie Robitaille for making the tickets, John Moreau for his donation of the handmade bird feeder and thermometer, and Billy Russell for assembling the BBQ.

As in previous years, there won't be any special entertainment for July and August.

SERVICE OFFICER

Submitted by Comrade Randy Rice, Service Officer

Sherry Culling, Provincial Service Officer for our area, visited our branch on May 29. Her visit was very successful. She was able to assist a number of veterans with their concerns. In addition I referred two inquiries to her. Sherry also mentioned that she would be available if in the future our branch would like her to do a presentation. I would like to thank all those who assisted me in the preparation for her visit. If you know of any Veteran or members of their family who have questions or need information please contact me. I can be contacted via the Coldwater Branch office or my home phone (705) 739-0062 between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., or by email at ricerandolph@gmail.com

TREASURER

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Jean Murray, Branch Treasurer

Our monthly Financial Report was presented to the membership by the Board of Management Chairperson at the June 28 General Meeting. As you are aware, the Board has approved extensive improvements and repairs during the period of November 24, 2016, to May 31, 2017, and hope you will recognize your branch is on the 'upswing' at this time.

We have also invested approximately \$300.00 in flowers, fertilizer and mulch to improve the appearance of our lawns and gardens. The flowers are flourishing and I think the fertilizer is working as well. And we have contracted with a young entrepreneur to do our lawn mowing at a fair and reasonable cost.

We are still searching for a third person for our Finance Committee to do a Financial Review of the Branch records for our year ended May 31, 2017. Please see me if you are willing to help.



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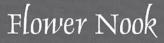
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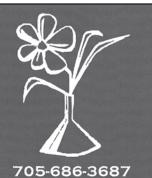
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PUBLIC RELATIONS

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Public Relations Officer

As you noticed by now, this July issue of the Maple Leaf came out later than usual. This was done to ensure we could include some of the Canada Day coverage in it, rather than wait until August. Also, you certainly noticed the new look of our front cover. The intent is to feature from now on a different article and/or photo on the cover of each monthly issue. This will not only give us an additional page for newsworthy items, but it will also enable us to move away from the pink, yellow and green paper covers that was used to differentiate the months.

Our branch 2016-2017 Scrapbook was sent to the District PRO to be entered in the provincial competition. We also entered our Maple Leaf in the Electronic Bulletin category.

Finally, we thank all those who helped with our CANADA 150th event on Canada Day. In terms of public relation activities, that Big Tent in our parking lot probably got us more attention from the Coldwater community than any article or on-line post we could have done. I intended to list the names of all who volunteered to help with the event, but realized that the list is too long and I would probably still miss some. So, **THANK YOU ALL WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY!!**



COLLECTION MANAGER

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Collection Manager

With all the tasks related to the Canada Day events, not much was done in the past month on collection or historical issues. But please note that we will honour one more of our Fallen Soldiers in July. Lance-Corporal Charles McKerrall of Coldwater, was killed in action on July 23, 1917 (See article on page 9). Our flags will be lowered on the 100th anniversary of his passing, July 23, and a short biography will be published.

Quote of the Month

"I am a Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, or free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind."

- Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, from the Canadian Bill of Rights, July 1, 1960.

SPORTS

Submitted by Comrade Bob Gourlie, Sports Chairperson

There are no new events in Sports for the summer. But just as a reminder: We have Fun Darts Wednesday evenings for the summer; Tuesday evening is a Poker Pool League and Cribbage; and Shuffleboard will continue on Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m. Also, Coldwater has a team going to the District Golf on July 8 in Borden: Larry Hutchinson and Bob Gourlie. Finally, there is a Provincial Washer Toss Tournament on August 6. It is open to any member. Watch for details on the Sports Board.

SICK & VISITING

Submitted on behalf of Comrade Eleanor Schull, Sick & Visiting Chairperson

We are sorry to let you know that Comrade Ellie Schull, our Sick and Visiting Chair who would normally submit this report, recently lost her daughter Shelley Blanchard to cancer. Our sympathy goes out to Ellie and her family.

On a happier note, we can tell you that Maggie Murphy, our esteemed 'Bar Manager' and bar steward, is well on her way to recovery. Get well Maggie, we all miss you!

LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT



Greetings Comrades:

Summer has finally arrived and so looking forward to warm weather, glorious sunshine and all the good things that summer brings!

Our Pot Luck dinner at the June meeting was delicious!! Thanks to all the ladies who brought a wonderful variety of dishes. The meal was yummy!!

Subsequent to our Executive meeting, the following committees and respective chairs have been appointed for the coming year:

Catering – Marcia LeBlanc (chair), Jane Lauder, Fran Pearson Sick & Visiting – Alida Turner, Jennine Crowe, Joanne Pellegrims

Books – Michele Russell Foodland Tapes – Jane Lauder Sports & Meat Pies – Michele Russell Phone Committee – Bernice King & Jennine Crowe Honors & Awards – Brenda Yule (chair), Janis Cronin Membership – Brenda Yule



Ladies Auxiliary member Cathy Larkin volunteered for the Pop & Water table under "The Big Tent".

LADIES AUXILIARY FOODLAND TAPES COLLECTION

The Ladies Auxiliary collects cash register receipts from Foodland Coldwater. Once we have accumulated \$50,000 in tapes, they are submitted to Foodland and in return, we receive a donation! This donation goes into our Veterans Fund. Anyone can bring their receipts to the Legion and they are collected in a box on the bookshelf at the rear of the clubroom.

HELP SUPPORT OUR VETERANS!!

My thanks to all comrades who volunteered to take on these appointments. Your dedication and commitment is appreciated!

Thank you to those who volunteered to help out with the Pop/Water stand on July 1st.

As of now, we have no functions scheduled for catering. However, please note that if help is needed, we will always post a Sign Up sheet on the Ladies Auxiliary bulletin board just outside the Legion office.

There will be no Ladies Auxiliary General meetings in July and August. Our next meeting will be a Pot Luck dinner at 6:00 pm on Thursday September 21, followed by our meeting.

Our thoughts and prayers are always with those comrades who are ill. Our sincerest condolences go out to Comrade Eleanor Schull on the passing of her daughter Shelley.

In closing, I wish all Comrades a wonderful summer and look forward to a busy fall schedule.

Yours in comradeship,

Donna Packer, President



Cutting the Canada Day cake.

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COLDWATER REMEMBERS: LANCE CORPORAL CHARLES MCKERRALL

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Collection Manager

This month, as we celebrate 150 years of Canada's history, we, at the Coldwater Legion, commemorate another milestone anniversary. On July 23, the Coldwater Legion will lower its flags to honour Lance Corporal Charles McKerrall of Coldwater, who died from wounds received in action 100 years ago while serving on the front lines in France.

Charles McKerrall was born on December 17, 1886, in Simcoe County, Ontario. The son of a British mother, Elizabeth, and a Scottish father, Peter McKerrall, Charles had an older brother, Archibald, and three younger siblings, Florence, Peter, and Mildred. Just before the war, the family resided on Bush Street in Coldwater.

On February 12, 1916, Charles, his brother Peter, and dozens of other Coldwater young men enlisted with the 157th Overseas Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during a recruiting drive in Coldwater. Charles was 28 years old and single. On his Attestation Form he is described as 5 feet 6 inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair. He identified his religious the remainder of the war with the

denomination as United Church, and his trade as clerk, with no previous military experience.

Private Charles McKerrall, regimental number 644025, sailed to England on the S.S. Cameronia, arriving on October 28, 1916. After training in England for several months, he landed in France on February 11, 1917, where he joined his front line unit, the 116th Canadian Infantry Battalion, part of the 3rd Canadian Division. A few months later, Charles was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal.

On July 23, 1917, the 116th Battalion launched an attack on German trenches near Avion. Under heavy bombardment and gas attack from the German side, the battalion's three companies assaulted their objectives and killed or captured dozens of enemy troops. During the raid, Lance Corporal McKerrall suffered a gunshot wound to the abdomen and was evacuated to No.7 Casualty Clearing Station. He was later reported as having "died of wounds received in action." His brother Peter, served for We will remember him.



Along with several other Coldwater soldiers, Lance Corporal Charles McKerrall served with the 116th Canadian Infantry Battalion in France.

1st Canadian Infantry Battalion.

Lance Corporal Charles McKerrall is Buried at Noeux-les-Mines Communal Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. He is commemorated on page 285 of the First World War Book of Remembrance, located inside the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower in Ottawa.

BLACKDOWN

On Saturday, July 29, 'BLACKDOWN' is happening at Canadian Forces Base Borden.

It is an early start, and if you are interested in attending you must reserve by July 15. See the Bulletin Board.

If you are driving to this event we have another member who doesn't drive and would like to join you.

For anyone who hasn't attended one of these events, you will find it very enlightening.

This event is FREE and provides a barbecue lunch. Legion uniform is requested.

The INVICTUS GAMES are coming in September.

The Royal Canadian Legion, Dominion Command is one of the sponsors of these games. Ticket prices are reasonable and some of the events are even free.

So please take the time to check out the schedule and perhaps make a trip down to see some of the events.

There is a website (www.invictusgames2017.com) where you can find all the information on scheduling, event locations and ticket prices. The Golfing event is being held at St. George's Golf Club in Islington/Toronto (one of the loveliest courses you will ever walk) and it is one of the FREE events.

Please support these Veteran athletes who are struggling against illness and injury to re-establish their place in life.

WAR

Submitted by Comrade Rosalie J. Pratt

It was that time of the day when her melancholy reached its pinnacle. This seemingly endless war had a way of making her more and more morose as the months unveiled.

She never thought of herself as undisciplined but she had overheard whispers about the over-indulgence of her 'sin'. Some of the murmurings were made more audible than necessary and at this point she knew she would have to regain control of her wicked ways. She chuckled as she remembered her delicious read of Errol Flynn's autobiography, My Wicked Wicked Ways an expose of his life and his sexual exploits.

True to her routine at fifteen hundred hours she reached onto the top shelf of her kitchen cupboard and drew to her well-endowed body the familiar cup and saucer. While waiting for her kettle to boil, she measured two heaping tablespoons of Ceylon Tea into her English tea pot. There was no rush. This was her daily routine. The kettle whistled its shrill tune. Almost absent-mindedly she poured the scalding liquid onto the raw leaves – 'it's just like war' she thought. 'Don't question it, just do it.' 'Yes, for my own good – be a good soldier.' Her position commanded she take orders without question or argument. The rules were simple: follow the orders or suffer the consequences.

She knew they would be there; they always were, waiting to be Mr. Lucky. They all promised to satisfy her every desire. She was cognizant of her weakness and that like a prisoner of war she was captive to the promise of reward. But this would play into a flurry of new whispers. No, she would persevere and maintain her cardinal rule of one per day. She would not give the troops fuel to gloat in the knowledge of her 'sin'. Each new day she picked herself up, dusted herself off and continued to look for a new candidate. Like all prisoners she relished in her daily revenge when she would devour Mr. Lucky. She reasoned, 'all is fair in love and war.'

There they were - she spied them on the left. They were lined seven to a row with four rows in military formation. They came in every shape, size and colour yet from a distance they all looked the same, exciting with the promise of hope and liberation.

At precisely fifteen-fifteen hours she filled her tea cup and reached for her Oreo cookie. She thought, 'tomorrow is another day', and with calculated deftness took the remaining twenty-seven soldiers and relegated them back to their regiment.



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Royal Canadian Legion Coldwater Ladies Auxiliary

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TUESDAY AFTERNOON EUCHRE

High Hand – Bev Richards Lone Hands – Pat King Low Hand – Marg Marchant Sunshine – Marg Marchant

June 6

High Hand – Lloyd Sibley Lone Hands – Marg Marchant Low Hand – Mona Barron Sunshine – Jean Carson

June 13

Ladies High Hand – Vicky Watson Ladies Lone Hands – Jean Carson Ladies Low Hand - Dianne Reid Men's High Hand – Brian Strong Men's Lone Hands – Garry Widden Men's Low Hand – Lloyd Sibley Sunshine – Vicky Watson

June 20

Ladies High Hand - Dianne Reid Ladies Lone Hands – Jean Carson Ladies Low Hand – Pat King Men's High Hand – Ted Baker Men's Lone Hands – Garry Widden Men's Low Hand – Angela Stewart Sunshine - Ted Baker

June 27

Ladies High Hand - Dianne Reid Ladies Lone Hands – Vicki Scott Ladies Low Hand – Bev Richards Men's High Hand – Garry Widden Men's Lone Hands – Brian Strong Men's Low Hand – Joe Barron Sunshine - Fred Reid

THURSDAY SHUFFLEBOARD June 1

First - Betty Anne Second - Lloyd Third - Maggie

Sunshine - Betty Anne

June 15

First - Brian Second - Betty Anne

Third - Maggie

Sunshine – Maggie

JUNE 17 JAMMIN' SESSION

TUESDAY NIGHT CRIBBAGE May 30

- 1. Marcia Leblanc (Perfect Game)
- 2. Doug Bennett
- 3. Ross Pipher
- 4. Marie Kinnear

Sunshine - Larry Hutchinson

June 6

- 1. Bob Carter
- 2. Janet Hamilton
- 3. Jackie Lennox
- 4. Ross Pipher

Sunshine – Larry Hutchinson

June 13

- 1. Donna Packer
- 2. Garv Hamilton
- 3. Jackie Lennox
- 4. Bob Carter

Sunshine – Marie Kinnear

June 20

- 1. Ross Pipher
- 2. Bob Carter
- 3. Doug Bennett
- 4. Marcia Leblanc

Sunshine - Dorothy Gerrard

June 27

- 1. Bill Kinnear
- 2. Janet Hamilton
- 3. Marie Kinnear
- 4. Carl Swanson

Sunshine – Barry Emo

FRIDAY NIGHT STEAK DARTS

June 23 June 2 1. Monica 1. Larry 2. Dorothy 2. Dianne 3. Dorothy 3. Kathy 4. Lorne 4. Kari 5. Dianne 5. Frank 6. Dorothy 6. Grace Sunshine – Chris Sunshine - Gill June 9 June 30 1. Frank 1. Kari 2. Monica 2. Dianne

3. Grace 3. Dianne 4. Chris 4. Dorothy 5. Gene 5. Frank 6. Dorothy 6. Anne

Sunshine - Kari Sunshine - Kathy

TUESDAY NIGHT POOL

May 30 (wins)

Louise Dearman (3)

Tom Dearman (2)

Larry Hutchinson (2)

Dorothy Gerrard (1)

Cathy Larkins (1)

Marcie Wilson (1)

June 6 (wins)

Tom Dearman (3)

Louise Dearman (2)

Larry Hutchinson (1)

Dorothy Gerrard (1)

Ron Simkin (1)

Maggie Murphy (1)

Marcie Wilson (1)

June 13 (wins)

Tom Dearman (2)

Louise Dearman (2)

Maggie Murphy (2)

Ron Simkin (2)

Dorothy Gerrard (2)

Marcie Wilson (1)

June 20 (wins)

Larry Hutchinson (8)

Tom Dearman (1)

Dorothy Gerrard (1)

June 27 (wins)

Larry Hutchinson (3 1/2)

Ron Simkin (3)

Louise Dearman (2)

Tom Dearman (1)

Dorothy Gerrard (1/2)

JUNE 10 MEAT DRAW WINNERS

- 1. Marcia Leblanc
- 2. Jane Lauder
- 3. Dianne Sauvé
- 4. Dorothy Gerrard
- 5. Jeannie Perryman
- 6. Betty Anne Burnie
- 7. Jack Lauder
- 8. Jim McLaren
- 9. Maggie Murphy
- 10. Rick Pacey
- 11. Ed Bourque

We thank those who participated in our Jammin' at the Legion session on Saturday June 17. We had the chance of listening to George Sinclair on keyboard, guitar and vocals, and Barbara Curran on guitar and vocals. Thank you for joining us. Our Jammin' at the Legion sessions normally run every third Saturday of the month, from 2 to 4 p. m. Note that Jammin' will take a break for July and August. We'll be back in September.



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!!

Photos by Brenda Yule.





"Thank you, Norm Marion, for all your efforts for the BIA and Legion on Canada Day. You worked your charm on the Township, the Tent company, the Security company and sweated it out with AGCO. Without your determination and attention the "150th Canada Day" celebration at the Legion would not have happened. Even though we had many volunteers helping on and off, without you at the helm, it would have been just another party." – Betty-Jean Murray, Treasurer



Laura Simpson

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				Pool 7:00		
	Steak Darts 6:00	Shuffleboard 1:00		T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cribbage 7:00	CLOSED	CLOSED
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	Steak Darts 6:00	Shuffleboard 1:00		Euchre 1:30 T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cribbage 7:00 Pool 7:00	CLOSED	CLOSED
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1 Canada's 150th Birthday 11:30 - 11:00						
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