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On The Road Again!

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

I know, it's about time! After last years heavy traveling schedule, and the poor weather, Judi and I decided that we would slow down a bit. It's not that we haven't been busy over the winter, we have! Not with traveling, but with changing our websites and updating its information. In addition, planning this year's adventures has added to our "load". I am not complaining! Our future travels look very exciting! I'll get to that in a later issue.

In the meantime, I'd like to tell you about our recent trip to Ottawa and area. It was a busy three days! On Monday we visited the *Canada Agriculture and Food Museum*. If you have never been there, you have missed a very interesting and unique experience. Judi and I were treated to a tour of the Museum with Communications and Marketing Officer, *Kelly Ray*. During our tour, Kelly provided lots of background information along with "inside" antidotes. Our article about the *Canada Agricultural and Food Museum* will be posted on our *Ontario Visited Website* shortly. After visiting the Museum, we drove to *Downtown Ottawa* to the *ByWard Market* district. We were booked to stay at the *ByWard Blue Inn*. The *ByWard Blue* is a charming "boutique" inn, located in the heart of the *ByWard Market* district. After checking into our hotel, we decided to explore the *Market* area and look for an interesting place to eat.

The next day we walked to *Parliament Hill* for a meeting with the *Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism, Agriculture, The Honourable Maxime Bernier*. Our meeting with *Minister Bernier* and his staff was very productive, as we are planning a promotional tour for *Canada's Sesquicentennial (150 years) Celebrations* in 2017. I will report the details of our plans later in the year. Our meeting with *Minister Bernier* included an interview with him, about the future of tourism in Canada. Judi will be posting her interview with the Minister on her *INSIDE SCOOP* Blog. After our meeting, we took a taxi to *Gatineau* and the *Canadian Museum of History* (formerly *The Museum of Civilization*). Initially we met with *Stephanie Fortin*, the Museum's Tourism and Marketing Officer. After our meeting with *Stephanie*, we were treated to an individual tour of the Museum by Tour Guide, *Michel*. For the next hour and a half, we were "whisked" back in Canada's time! The *Canadian Museum of History* is a magnificent structure, full of amazing artifacts and information! Our time with *Michel* seemed to "fly-by", as we passed by the "maze" of Canadian history!

Please see *On The Road Again!...* on page 2



"ByWard Blue Inn"
ByWard Market District - Ottawa



"Judi with Minister Bernier"
Minister of Small Business &
Tourism, Agriculture

THE INSIDE SCOOP...

by Judi "Scoop" McWilliams

"Last week we were honoured to meet with the Canadian Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism, Agriculture ~ The Honourable Maxime Bernier and his staff. During the meeting we were able to conduct an interview with the Minister, focusing on Canadian Tourism. Here is an excerpt from my pending "THE INSIDE SCOOP" Blog."

During the interview, we discussed "The *Importance of Canadian Tourism*".

Canada was once one of the world's hottest tourist destinations. The Minister believes that if Canada were to regain its former standing as a popular travel destination, the economic benefits to the Canadian could be enormous.

With *tourism* being one of the world's fastest-growing sectors, Minister Bernier pointed out that his Ministry and the *Canadian Tourism Commission* (CTC), who are responsible for " *sustaining a vibrant and profitable Canadian tourism industry*", are looking for ways to work together to capitalize on this trend for Canada.

The CTC helps promote Tourism in Canada to 11 countries around the world: Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, the UK and the US... their brand - "*Keep Exploring*"!

Stay tuned to "*THE INSIDE SCOOP*" for our full Series of Interview Blog articles with The Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of State for Small Business & Tourism, Agriculture.

Prior to our meeting with Minister Bernier, I wanted to find out more about the Minister and his Ministry. That's when I learned more about the CTC. One of their initiatives is a Quiz on "*WHAT KIND OF TRAVELER OUR YOU?*" Here's your chance to take the quiz and find out where you fit! Have fun! (Click [HERE](#)). By the way, can you guess what types or travelers the Nomad and I are... send us an e-mail at judi@ontariovisited.ca.

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It was a good thing that we visited the Museum when we did, as they are planning on closing the "*Canada Hall*" (Level 3) for renovations in the fall. The new "*Canadian History Hall*" will re-open in time for *Canada's 150th Birthday Celebrations*. Judi and I can't wait to see the "*Hall*" when it's completed. If you are going to be in the *Ottawa/Gatineau* area this summer, make sure that you that you include a visit to the *Canadian Museum of History* on your list of things "*to see and do*"!

On Wednesday we had hoped to stay in Ottawa to attended "*Question Period*", but we couldn't arrange for an additional night at the Inn. Instead, we decided to leave Ottawa and explore the nearby towns and villages. Our first stop was *Prescott*, located south of Ottawa on the banks of the *St. Lawrence River*. Here we meet with Ingrid Bjornson, General Manager of the *St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival*. Ingrid filled us in on this year's two exciting new plays, "*The Tempest*" and "*The Two Gentlemen Of Verona*".

Please see *On The Road Again!*... on page 3



"Livestock Area"
Canada Agriculture & Food Museum



"Judi Tries Out Tractor Ride!"
Canada Agriculture & Food Museum



"Judi with Kelly Ray"
Canada Agriculture & Food



"Judi with Michelle McMullen, Minister Bernier & Laurence Gagnon d'Entremont"
Ministry of Small Business & Tourism,
Agriculture Meeting - Ottawa



"Along the Rideau Canal"
Promenade Prince of Wales - Ottawa



"Chateau Laurier"
Ottawa



"Centre Block - Parliament Hill"
Ottawa



"View from the Hill!"
Parliament Hill - Ottawa

On The Road Again!... from page 2

The play dates begin on *July 11th, 2014* and end on *August 16th, 2014*. You can visit their website at [St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival](#). On Saturday, August 2nd, the Festival will be hosting a special "world tour" performance by *Shakespeare's Globe Theatre* of "*Hamlet*". Tickets for this event were sold out in less than an hour! We had hoped to see Artistic Director, *Ian Farthing*, but he was out at a meeting. Unfortunately this is Ian's last year at the Festival. I know that Judi and I will miss him. He has always been most generous with his time and information! We look forward to meeting the new Artistic Director, *Rona Waddington*, soon. From *Prescott*, we traveled north to *Merrickville*. This a scenic Heritage village, located on the Rideau Canal. It's dubbed as the "*Jewel of the Rideau*". We spent some time exploring village shops, taking lots of photographs, and then stopped for lunch at the *Baldachin Restaurant*. After lunch, and much debate, we once again headed north, this time to the *Town of Almonte*. I had visited the town years before, but hadn't remember how extraordinary it was! We had hoped to visit with our friends at the *Almonte Fair* (North Lanark Agricultural Society), but we had arrived later in the day, an no-one was at the fairgrounds. Disappointed, we decided to "*scope out*" the downtown area. Canada's *Mississippi River* runs through the centre of the downtown area. A once textile mill has been converted into unique condominiums and is located right along the River's banks. Condominium balcony's overlook the rushing river. I can imagine residents sitting on their balconies with their fishing lines dangling in the water! "*Diner*" waiting to be caught! The day we visited, the river was high and was rushing through a series of rapids and falls. There was a suspended "*Riverwalk*" over the "*angry*" white water! Judi and I were able to capture this amazing scene with our camera. Our photos of the *Town of Almonte* and the *Mississippi River* don't give justice to what we experienced! Articles about *Merrickville*, *Almonte* and the *City of Ottawa* will be posted in a few weeks.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, "*We're on the road again!*"

Festival Nomad's Report...

As I mentioned above, Judi and I have started our visits and our planning many more. Prior to our trip in Ottawa, we visited our town's home show, *Cobourg Home Show*. The Home Show, which took place at the multi-functional *Cobourg Community Centre*, was a smaller local event that featured interesting exhibits and vendors. The next event we will be visiting in May (May 23rd), will be the *Exposure Show* held at the *International Centre* in Mississauga. As you can see from the list shown below, there will be plenty to see and visit in *May* and *June!*



"Museum Entrance"
Canadian Museum of History - Gatineau



"Level One - Canada's First Peoples"
Canadian Museum of History - Gatineau



"Exhibit in Canada Hall"
Canadian Museum of History - Gatineau



"Level One Sculpture"
Canadian Museum of History - Gatineau

The Nomad's May/June Event List

Here's a list of some of the great Ontario festivals and events happening this Spring/Summer. To help you learn more, each listing has a link to the event's website. We would encourage you to visit each website for current details.

May 2014 (20th - 31st)

May - September 30, 2014 - [Village Opened Daily](#) (Kawartha Settlers Village, Bobcaygeon)

May - December, 2014 - [Stones 'N Bones Museum](#) (Sarnia)

May 1 - September 15, 2014 - [Indian River Reptile Zoo](#) (Peterborough Area)

May 4 - October, 2014 - [Almonte Flea Market - Sundays](#) (Almonte Fairgrounds, Almonte)

May 5 - October 10, 2014 - [King Lear](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

May 7 - October 26, 2014 - [When We Were Married](#) (Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake)

May 8 - October 11, 2014 - [Man Of La Mancha](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

May 15 - October 25, 2014 - [The Philadelphia Story](#) (Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake)

May 15 - September 21, 2014 - [Mother Courage and Her Children](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

May 16 - October 11, 2014 - [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

May 17 - June 1, 2014 - [Niagara Folk Arts Festival](#) (St. Catharines)

May 18 - October 13, 2014 - [Roseneath Carousel - Sundays](#) (Roseneath)

May 21 - September 20, 2014 - [King John](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

May 22 - 25, 2014 - [Schomberg Spring Festival](#) (Schomberg)

May 23, 2014 - [Cruizin on the Square](#) (City of Waterloo)

May 23, 2014 - [Art After Dark](#) (Downtown Kingston)

May 23 - 24, 2014 - [Retrofest](#) (Chatham)

May 23 - 25, 2014 - [Barrie Waterfront Festival](#) (Barrie)

May 23 - June 11, 2014 - [Arts on Main](#) (South Simcoe Arts Council, New Tecumseth)

May 23 - June 11, 2014 - [Youth Arts by the River](#) (South Simcoe Arts Council, New Tecumseth)

May 23 - 25, 2014 - [Carassauga](#) (Mississauga)

May 23 - 25, 2014 - [Exposure Photo & Video Imaging Show](#) (Mississauga)

May 23 - 25, 2014 - [Rotary Rib 'n' Roll](#) (Brampton)

May 23 - 26, 2014 - [Huron Fringe Birding Festival](#) (MacGregor Point Park, Port Elgin)

May 24, 2014 - [Almonte Truck & Tractor Pull](#) (Almonte Fairgrounds, Almonte)

May 24, 2014 - [Kicx Video Dance Party](#) (Great Northern Ex Fairgrounds, Stayner)

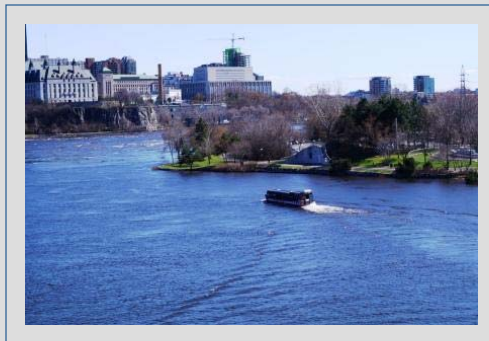
Please see *The Nomad's May/June Event List...* on page 5

The Nomad's May/June Event List... from page 4

- May 24, 2014 - [Spring Plant & Bake Sale](#) (Hutchison House Museum, Peterborough)
- May 24 - 25, 2014 - [All About Horses](#) (Lindsay Agricultural Society, Lindsay)
- May 24, 2014 - [Bring On Spring](#) (Woodbridge Agricultural Society, Woodbridge)
- May 24 - 25, 2014 - [London Baby Expo](#) (Western Fair District, London)
- May 24 - 25, 2014 - [Model Train Show](#) (Midland)
- May 24 - 25, 2014 - [Doors Open](#) (Brockville & 1000 Islands)
- May 24 - 25, 2014 - [Doors Open Toronto](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)
- May 24 - 25, 2014 - [Apple Blossom Tyme Festival](#) (Colborne)
- May 24 - 25, 2014 - [Eden Mills Arts Festival](#) (Eden Mills)
- May 24 - 25, 2014 - [Warkworth Lilac Festival](#) (Warkworth)
- May 24, 2014 - [Beeton Honey & Garden Festival](#) (Beeton)
- May 24, 2014 - [Artfest on the Esplanade](#) (Pickering)
- May 25, 2014 - [Queen Victoria](#) - A Woman of Influence (Westfield Heritage Village)
- May 25, 2014 - [Walk For Dog Guides](#) (Woodbridge Fairgrounds, Woodbridge)
- May 27 - 31, 2014 - [Quilt & Fibre Art Festival Waterloo & Beyond](#) (St. Jacobs)
- May 28, 2014 - [Rhubarb Spring Fling](#) (Hutchison House Museum, Peterborough)
- May 28 - October 11, 2014 - [Hay Fever](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)
- May 29 - 31, 2014 - [Spring Pulse Poetry Festival](#) (Cobalt)
- May 29 - June 1, 2014 - [1000 Islands Jazz and Blues Festival](#) (Brockville)
- May 29 - June 1, 2014 - [Plein Air Festival](#) (Belleville)
- May 29 - June 1, 2014 - [Huron Fringe Birding Festival](#) (MacGregor Point Park, Port Elgin)
- May 30 - June 1, 2014 - [Pickering Rotary Ribfest](#) (Pickering)
- May 30 - June 1, 2014 - [Walter Gretsky Street Hockey Tournament](#) (Brantford)
- May 31, 2014 - [Touch-A-Truck](#) (Ancaster Fairgrounds, Ancaster)
- May 31, 2014 - [Queens Court Ball](#) - Fiesta Week (Oshawa)
- May 31, 2014 - [Sudbury Gardening Festival](#) (Sudbury)

June 2014 (1st - 30th)

- June 1, 2014 - [Silent Film Favourites](#) (Westfield Heritage Village)
- June 1, 2014 - [Just For Kids Fishing](#) Derby (Midland)
- June 1, 2014 - [Bike Rodeo](#) (Midland)
- June 5 - 8, 2014 - [Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival](#) (Orangeville)
- June 6 - 7, 2014 - [Jesus Christ Superstar - In Concert](#) (Westben Arts Festival Theatre, Campbellford)
- June 6 - 8, 2014 - [Bowmanville Rotary Ribfest](#) (Bowmanville)
- June 7, 2014 - [Battle of the Brushes](#) (South Simcoe Arts Council, New Tecumseth)



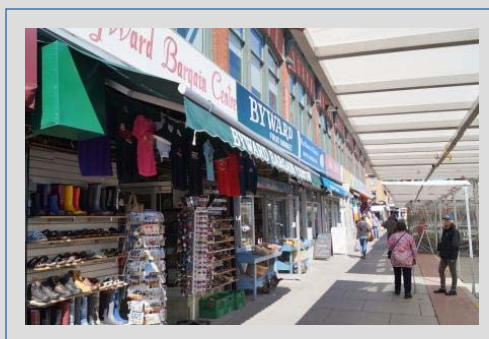
"View of Ottawa River from the Alexandra Bridge"
Ottawa/Gatineau



"River Diner Bus-Boat on the Ottawa River"
Ottawa/Gatineau



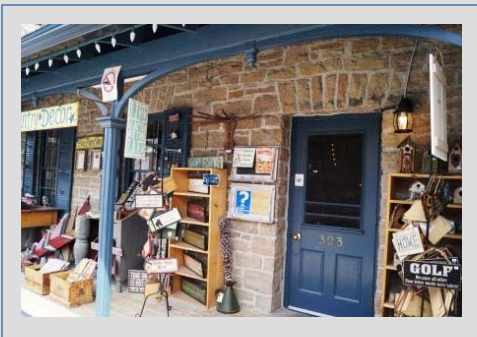
"Vegetable Booth"
ByWard Market - Ottawa



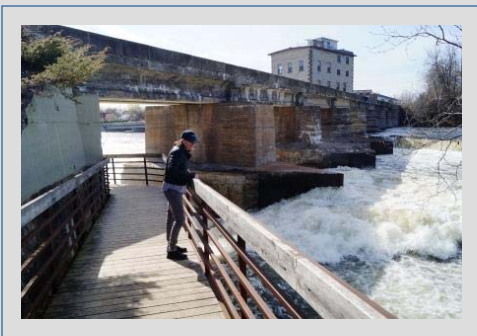
"Shops at the ByWard Market"
ByWard Market - Ottawa



"Historic Main Street"
Village of Merrickville



"Store on Main Street"
Village of Merrickville



"Rushing Water - Mississauga River"
Town of Almonte



"River Condo! Let's Go Fishing!"
Town of Almonte

The Nomad's May/June Event List... from page 5

June 7, 2014 - [Hoe Down](#) (Great Northern Ex Fairgrounds, Stayner)

June 7, 2014 - [Owl Prowl at Gordon's Park](#) (Gordons Park, Manitoulin Island)

June 7 - 8, 2014 - [Canadian International Military Tattoo](#) (Hamilton)

June 7 - 8, 2014 - [Springtime in Paris](#) (Paris)

June 8, 2014 - [Settlers' Day](#) (Kawartha Settlers' Village, Bobcaygeon)

June 11 - July 31, 2014 - [Hosta Fest](#) (Gardens Plus, Peterborough)

June 13 - 15, 2014 - [Kemptville Ribfest](#) (Kemptville)

June 13 - 15, 2014 - [Carrousel of Nations](#) (Windsor)

June 13 - 15, 2014 - [Kids Expo Family Festival](#) (London)

June 13 - 22, 2014 - [North By North East - NXNE](#) (Toronto)

June 14, 2014 - [CDHS Music Night](#) (Westben Arts Festival Theatre, Campbellford)

June 14, 2014 - [Owl Prowl at Gordon's Park](#) (Gordons Park, Manitoulin Island)

June 14, 2014 - [Buttertart Festival & Contest](#) (Midland)

June 14, 2014 - [Eat Algoma](#) (Sault Ste. Marie)

June 14 - 15, 2014 - [Oshawa Peony Festival](#) (Oshawa)

June 14 - 15, 2014 - [Grimsby Antique Show](#) (Grimsby)

June 15, 2014 - [Sounds of a Better World](#) (Westben Arts Festival Theatre, Campbellford)

June 15, 2014 - [50th Anniversary Celebration](#) (Westfield Heritage Village)

June 15, 2014 - [Bikes for Beats](#) (Brockville)

June 15, 2014 - [Trails Open](#) (Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London)

June 15 - 16, 2014 - [Battle of Black Creek](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)

June 15 - 21, 2014 - [Fiesta Week](#) (Oshawa)

June 15 - 30, 2014 - [Smoke & Steam Days](#) (Lang Pioneer Village, Keene)

June 19 - 22, 2014 - [Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival](#) (Ottawa)

June 20 - 21, 2014 - [The Art of Eating Food & Wine Festival](#) (Tecumseh)

June 20 - 21, 2014 - [Cobourg Highland Games](#) (Cobourg)

June 20 - 22, 2014 - [Beer & BBQ Show](#) (Western Fair District, London)

June 20 - 22, 2014 - [Tottenham Bluegrass Festival](#) (Tottenham)

June 20 - 22, 2014 - [Redpath Waterfront Festival](#) (Harbourfront, Toronto)

June 20 - 22, 2014 - [Summer Solstice Women's Outdoor Weekend](#) (Gordons Park, Manitoulin Island)

June 20 - 22, 2014 - [London International Food Festival](#) (London)

June 21, 2014 - [Day of 1000 Canoes](#) (Caledonia Fairgrounds, Caledonia)

June 21, 2014 - [Here Comes the Sun Gala Fundraiser](#) (Westben Arts Festival Theatre, Campbellford)

June 21, 2014 - [Solstice Sampling](#) (Uptown Waterloo)

June 20 - 29, 2014 - [Our Queen Awaits You!](#) (Old Cabbagetown)

Please see *The Nomad's May/June Event List...* on page 7

The Nomad's May/June Event List... from page 6

- June 21, 2014 - [Doors Open Kingston](#) (Kingston)
- June 21, 2014 - [Crawford Lake Aboriginal Day](#) (Western Corridor War of 1812-1814)
- June 21, 2014 - [Pride of Bloor-Yorkville](#) (Toronto)
- June 21, 2014 - [Thamesville Thrashing Festival](#) (Thamesville)
- June 21 - 22, 2014 - [Art in the City Studio Tour](#) (Brockville)
- June 21 - 22, 2014 - [Aboriginal Festival Weekend](#) (Saint Marie among the Hurons, Midland)
- June 21 - 22, 2014 - [A Day on the Farm](#) (Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London)
- June 22, 2014 - [Spirit of the Sixties](#) (Westfield Heritage Village)
- June 26 - 28, 2014 - [Island Breakfast on Refugee Island](#) (Brockville)
- June 26 - 29, 2014 - [Lakefield Jamboree](#) (Lakefield)
- June 27 - July 1, 2014 - [Toronto Ribfest](#) (Toronto)
- June 27 - July 1, 2014 - [Schools Out! Geocaching Weekend](#) (Gordons Park, Manitoulin Island)
- June 27 - July 1, 2014 - [OH Canada Ribfest](#) (Waterdown)
- June 28, 2014 - [Malcolm's Mill - Western Corridor War of 1812 - 1814](#) (Oakland)
- June 28, 2014 - [Canada Day Weekend Astronomy Night](#) (Gordons Park, Manitoulin Island)
- June 28 - July 1, 2014 - [Cobourg Waterfront Festival](#) (Cobourg)
- June 28 - July 1, 2014 - [Artfest Kingston](#) (Kingston)
- June 28 - July 1, 2014 - [Canada Day Rotary Ribfest](#) (North Scarborough)
- June 28 - July 1, 2014 - [Thousand Islands International Regatta & Festival](#) (Brockville)
- June 28 - September 2, 2014 - [Dinosaurs Roar - Indian River Reptile Zoo](#) (Peterborough Area)
- June 28 - October 11, 2014 - [Heritage Mica Days](#) (Murphys Point Park, Perth)
- June 29, 2014 - [Silent Film Favourites](#) (Westfield Heritage Village)
- June 29, 2014 - [Moonlight Hike & Wolf Howl](#) (Gordons Park, Manitoulin Island)
- June 30, 2014 - [Celebrate Canada Fireworks & FREE CONCERT on the Beach](#) (West Coast Blues Festival, Goderich)

NOTE ~ This is not a complete list of all of Ontario's great festivals and events held in the period mentioned. They do, however represent the ones we have been requested to list. If you know of any festival or event that should or would like to be listed on either our *Ontario Event Calendar* and our *Ontario Event Finder* (search engine) websites, please send their information to us at gary@ontariovisited.ca. (E&EO)

Where To Begin?

By Gary McWilliams

Judi and I, and our *Festival Nomad Correspondents*, try to visit as many festivals, events, fairs, communities as possible. We visit a lot, over 100 last year. That's what makes our "job" so interesting. Okay, so it's not a *job*, but a "labour of love"! Choosing which ones to visit each year is something else. Now, that is a job! We want to make sure that we cover as many regions as possible, as many types as possible. We get lots of "requests to visit". We don't want to disappoint anyone! BUT!!! The truth is, we can't visit everyone, even with our *Festival Correspondents*. Now, as I look at the above list of events, I am over whelmed by the scope and number! It's hard to imagine the effort put forward by thousands and thousands of selfless volunteers! Think of the pride that each community has for its events and the people who organize them.

So here we are, at the beginning of the "festival season", planning where to go and what to see. I'm "exhausted"! I'm going to take an "NAP"! Maybe I'll "dream-up" some "slick" solution. I'll let you know next month!



"Walking the Home Show"
Cobourg Home Show



"Sorry We Missed You!"
Almonte Fairgrounds

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