

hand prints



FOR THE PARTICIPANTS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS OF KIDS CANCER CARE FOUNDATION OF ALBERTA

FALL 2008

Scholarships for all

Twenty-six cancer survivors were in for a big surprise last June when KCCFA announced the first recipients of KCCFA Derek Wandzura Memorial Scholarship. These young people discovered that everyone who applied for a scholarship in the first year would receive a \$1,000 scholarship for studies this fall.

"Thank you for this amazing surprise and gift," said Robyn Wagenaar, who is studying to become an elementary school teacher.

"Through your programs and fundraisers, you have opened up a multitude of doors for young people like me. You have shown us that even though we have—or have had—cancer, we are able to live a normal life and succeed in whatever our dreams can create. Your programs are a beacon of hope."

Initially only a handful of young people were to be chosen for scholarships this year because the endowed fund only had \$5,000 to award. But a \$21,000 donation from Brahma Compression Ltd. brought the amount to \$26,000, making it possible for all applicants to walk away with a scholarship.

"The calibre of the applicants was so high and their stories so inspiring that we decided to stretch the rules—and the fund—in honour of the inaugural year," said Brahma president Don Schafer who sits on the KCCFA board of directors and chairs the scholarship committee.

KCCFA established the award last winter in honour of Derek Wandzura, the late son of Christine Wandzura, founder and CEO of KCCFA. Derek passed away from brain cancer at age nine: "I wasn't able to see Derek reach the age of these kids here today," said Christine at the awards ceremony, "And I won't be able to see him become a police officer like he wanted but I can see these kids reach their dreams—and that inspires me."

The scholarship is open to young people with a history of childhood cancer and it is designed to help financially strapped families. Christine knows first-hand the financial strain that childhood cancer can have on a family. One parent is often forced to quit working to care for the sick child.

The fund is also there to help level the playing field for young people suffering from the late effects of cancer and its treatments. Late effects of cancer may include blindness, deafness, unsteady gait, loss of limbs, small stature, learning difficulties, heart impairments, depression and a host of life-threatening diseases, which are only now being detected as young survivors grow up. Young people undergoing cancer treatment also miss more school than their peers and may fall behind academically.

Christine pointed out that many of the young people receiving awards are going into the sciences and helping professions: "We're going to see lots of them become researchers, doctors, nurses, teachers and therapists," said Christine. "They're really in the mindset of giving back and this is very encouraging."

The \$100,000 endowed fund is managed by The Calgary Foundation and its annual disbursement is \$5,000—five per cent of the total fund. KCCFA hopes to increase that amount in coming years, so the **fund remains open to donations**.

"We hope to grow the fund substantially next year, so we can continue the trend of giving healthy sums to more young people," said Don.



Camp & Community Outreach



Research



Clinical Support



Scholarship



Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography

Derek Rollo receives a congratulatory kiss from his mother. Derek was one of 26 cancer survivors who each took home a \$1,000 scholarship for studies this fall.



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Editor: Gail Corbett

Message from our CEO

"In the realm of ideas everything depends on enthusiasm; in the real world, all rests on perseverance."—Johann von Goethe

Who has persevered more than our 2008 scholarship recipients? Each is a survivor of childhood cancer and all have graduated from high school. Now, with the help of a **\$1,000 scholarship from KCCFA**, these young adults will embrace the challenge of post-secondary education. I wish each of them every happiness and success as they pursue their career goals through education.

In this issue, you will meet another courageous kid—**Corban**. The first thing you'll notice about Corban is his smile. It'll melt your heart. Then, you'll notice his tenacity and his spirit. Corban's story is an exceptional one—so inspiring, that we have chosen him to be the subject of our **fall fundraising appeal**. This is an important method of raising money and awareness for our programs. I hope you enjoy reading Corban's story and, if you receive the campaign letter in your mailbox, I hope his life will inspire you to support KCCFA with a donation.

This summer, we announced a breaking research discovery by Dr. Aru Narendran and his team at the University of Calgary. Dr. Narendran has developed a unique method to grow AT/RT cancer cells in a laboratory setting, making this rare and aggressive brain tumour readily available for scientists all over the world to study for the first time. As you know, these kinds of results do not happen overnight. They demand scientific expertise, commitment, and passion, and yes, perseverance! I am grateful for the collaboration and drive shown by these dedicated scientists and invite you to read more about Dr. Narendran's discovery in our **mini-annual report** included in this newsletter issue, or on our **website**.

Read more about Dr. Narendran's discovery in our mini-annual report on page six.

It is my honour to welcome Don Stevens of Lite 96 to our board of directors. Don brings with him enthusiasm, business smarts and a wicked sense of humour. A warm welcome to Jordan Miller. Jordan brings over 10 years of experience in the camping and outdoor recreational field and looks forward to putting that experience to work as our new camp coordinator.

Sadly, we must say goodbye to two long-term employees Barb Smeltzer, former manager of volunteers, and Kelly Kerr, former camp coordinator. Both Barb and Kelly made a tremendous impact during their years at KCCFA. I wish them much joy in their new work. We must also bid adieu to this year's summer students—Kaitlin Iannuzzi, Katherine Schroeder and Carly Murray—and wish them well as they return to school this fall.

In many ways, KCCFA embodies the spirit of perseverance—which is to persist in the face of discouragement, opposition or counter influences. We all encounter obstacles and discouragement in our lives. But not every one persists. At KCCFA, we persist, thanks to people like you. You have persevered with us through times of building and times of hard work and I trust that you will be with us in the future when we reap the rewards of today's efforts. Thank you. You make our vision and our work possible.



Christine Wandzura, M.S.M., CFRE, Chief Executive Officer



Justine St. Cyr accepts a scholarship from Christine Wandzura and Jack Perraton, chair of KCCFA board of directors.

2008 scholarship recipients

Carol Adamson
Kristine Bellingham
Jillian Berling-MacKenzie
Patricia Brisebois
Lauren Carroll
Danielle Christensen
Bryan Dusterhoft
Dwight Hodel
Yilan Li
Cassandra Lowartz
Brittany Lundberg
Kaitlin Mack
Sarah Martens
Natalie Mason
Melissa Michielsen
Jennifer Murdock
Adam Ostick
Elisha Quinn
Danielle Rettie
Amanda Richter
Derek Rollo
Verdun Sawatsky
Justin St. Cyr
Bryanne Vergara
Robyn Wagenaar
Michal Zuk

It takes a province to send a kid to camp

Some 400 young people affected by cancer experience the magic of camp each summer and it's all because of you—our donors, sponsors, community partners and volunteers. Each year, KCCFA galvanizes truckloads of people, time, and resources to make camp possible. Here's a snapshot of the effort.

Golfers raise \$220,000

Golfers and sponsors raised a record \$220,000 this year at the Don, Joanne & the Coach Golf a Kid to Camp tournament. This fun, food-filled event with a little golfing on the side has raised \$1.5 million over the last 14 years and has sent thousands of Alberta children affected by cancer to camp. Special thanks to this year's golf sponsors.

Donations make a big difference

Camp would not happen without the much-needed cash donations from our friends at the Kids With Cancer Society, the Alberta Lottery Fund, the Michael R. Shaw Foundation, CIBC World Markets Children's Miracle Foundation, RBC Foundation, ING Foundation and Computer Modelling Group. These organizations and many more make the giggles and smiles of summer camp possible. Thank you.

In-kind donations offset camp costs

In-kind donations are gifts of services or material goods that help offset the cost of sending kids to an accredited oncology camp. Our partners at Easter Seals Camp Horizon ease the costs each summer by sharing the cost to put on Camp SunMaker. Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch provides a similar in-kind donation for Camp SunSeeker, while Sparkle the Clown, Stars Ambulance and the Calgary Fire Cadets provided complimentary services and entertainment for our SunRise campers. Many companies and organizations such as Carnivals for Kids at Heart also help reduce costs with hearty discounts.

A little help from our community friends

While the cash donations, sponsorships and in-kind gifts come in, our community friends go out, hosting fundraising events around the province in our name. Community-minded companies such as Toromont Energy Systems raise money every year to help send kids to camp through their annual golf tournaments.



Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation, Calgary Co-op and Rangeland RVs also stepped up big time this year with huge fundraising efforts and big donations to our camp programs.

Volunteers give time and talents

This summer, 75 volunteers gave 4,375 hours to make Camp SunMaker, SunSeeker and SunRise possible for our young people. And this doesn't include the many hours our special event volunteers clocked this summer. Imagine the dollars we save by receiving the donated talents and expertise of EMRs, EMTs, paramedics, nurses, one-to-one aides and counsellors.

Thanks to our major golf sponsors

Arcuri Homes
Calgary Jewellery
Pengrowth Management



Top — Kids love camp!

Left — Don (left), Joanne (front row left) and the Coach (right) with Dom (centre back row) and Lori Arcuri of Arcuri Homes at the 2008 golf tournament.

Above — Camp gives kids like Corban a chance to experience the simple joys of childhood again.

Photos by Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography

Community Friends

Friends in the community make great things happen for KCCFA kids and families! We thank our friends who raised funds on our behalf through community initiatives such as raffles, shaves and other fundraisers.



TRICO HOMES

Our shave program is made possible by Trico Homes.

Shavings

Thanks to the brave souls who show moral support for children with cancer by shaving their heads. Since February last year, our friends around the province have hosted 54 shaves and raised \$750,000 for children with cancer. Because of you and your tremendous support and courage, we are providing much-needed dollars for cancer research, hospital support, camp programs and education scholarships for cancer survivors.



Girls just wanna' fundraise

Calgary Girls School proved that girls wanna' have more than fun. They wanna' fundraise, so others can have fun. The all-girls school raised \$12,000. Wow!



Andrew Sibbald School raises \$28,000

Forty students at Andrew Sibbald School made their last days at school count this year by shaving their heads and raising \$28,000.



Beattie Homes shave raises \$600,000

Some 300 friends joined Bill Beattie of Beattie Homes last March for the fundraising shave of the year. Sixty employees, friends, trades and suppliers shaved their heads and raised a staggering \$600,000 for cancer charities. They were showing moral support for Bill, who was diagnosed with cancer in early 2008 and who sadly passed away last spring. The funds were shared between the Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada.



Golder Angels in action

The Golder Angels at Golder Associates were at it again last May, when six brave souls from the company shaved their lids for KCCFA kids. These angels and the rest of the Golder gang raised more than \$60,000 this year.

Community Friends

Racing for Rainbows: cops on trikes

Calgary police officers were Racing for Rainbows last June when they hopped on their trikes to raise money for children with cancer. Event organizers John McCarthy and Scott Powers were inspired to ride by little Shain Lynn, the nephew of their friend and colleague Constable Sean Lynn. Shain was diagnosed with cancer as a toddler and has been through several treatments and surgeries to be with us today. Turns out the cops found that elusive pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. They far surpassed their fundraising goal of \$1,000 and brought in \$10,000 for KCCFA kids!



Photo courtesy of Calgary police officers

Cell phones, cowboy hats and big bucks



Christine Wandzura and Candice Martin (centre) of KCCFA accept a \$100,000 cheque from Steve Roberts (left) and Darrell Graham (right) of Rogers Communications during the annual Rogers Chomp & Stomp.

total contribution to KCCFA over the last three years to \$230,000. Yee-Haw!

Don't miss next years' shin-dig. Visit chompandstomp.ca for details.

Photos courtesy of Rogers Communications



CityTV helped launch the text to donate campaign on the Breakfast Television show.

Rogers brought the wild west into the realm of high-tech texting last summer when they launched a T-E-X-T to donate campaign for KCCFA. The fundraising campaign saw \$2 charged to customers' phone bills every time they texted K-I-D-S from their cell phone or BlackBerry.

Over 1,000 guests dusted off their boots and pulled on their cowboy duds last July for another thigh-slappin' stampede hoedown at the Gerlitz Ranch. Hosted by Rogers Communications, the event featured a private rodeo, a BBQ dinner, casino games, live music, silent auctions and more!

The event raised \$100,000, bringing Rogers'

Peak perfection

The glitterati of the wine world gathered in one of the most spectacular settings in Canada to literally drink in their surroundings at the fourth annual Wine Summit Lake Louise. George and Andre Schwarz played host to 90 guests at this gala event, which raised more than \$50,000 for KCCFA. Over the past four years, the wine summit has raised more than \$160,000.

To reserve your spot at the fifth annual Wine Summit Lake Louise at the Post Hotel & Spa, May 28 to May 31, 2009, call 1.800.661.1586.

Junker blues

Not sure what to do with that junker sitting in the back lane? Why not turn it into a tax deductible charitable donation to KCCFA. To find how to donate your vehicle to charity, go to donateacar.ca or call toll free 1.877.250.4904.

Spread that holiday cheer

Looking for the perfect gift for that special someone who has everything this holiday season? Why not make a tribute gift to KCCFA in their name? Visit kidscancercare.ab.ca or contact us at 403.216.9210 or staff@kidscancercare.ab.ca to find out more about tribute giving.

Camp & Community Outreach

Ten reasons we LOVE camp!

- Making friends
- Being myself
- High ropes
- Giant swing
- Rafting
- The dangle maze
- Chillin'
- Forgetting cancer
- Feeling supported
- Laughing

Camp dates

Fall 2008

Family Camp
October 10-12

Camp SunKeeper
November 21-23

Spring 2009

Camp SunKeeper
March 27-29

**Family Camp/
Volunteer Training 1**
April 17 -19

**Family Camp/
Volunteer Training 2**
May 1-3

The journey of a smile

They arrive at camp with tentative smiles and uncertain eyes, shrinking behind bulky pillows and sleeping bags. A collection of new best friends and crazy camp songs dancing in their heads, they head home. Backpacks and clothes thick with the smell of campfire, their faces are bright and their hearts are a little lighter. This is the journey of camp. And, in between is a whole lot of fun! Here's what our campers have to say about summer camp 2008.



"If you haven't been to camp yet, you should hurry and sign up!"—Yanna, 14



"I love camp. I LOVE CAMP."—Chase, 12



Camp & Community Outreach



“Camp was an amazing learning experience and I love the fact that we have all been affected by cancer and can understand what we have been through.”
—Georgi, 15



“Camp is superspantabulishious!”—Carl, 12

Research shows summer camp helps self-esteem

Ever wonder why your child comes home from camp so happy and confident? New research says their beaming smiles and attitudes are because camp is good for self-esteem. Melissa Brown of Chestnut Hill College interviewed and tested self-esteem and self-concept in 18 cancer patients and survivors at Camp SunMaker 2005. Her research found that summer camp helps reduce the negative effects of cancer treatments, which can lead to a sense of isolation and poor self-esteem, by providing kids with opportunities not found elsewhere. At camp, they can build friendships with other cancer patients and survivors and they can test limits in a safe and encouraging environment. To read the full research paper, go to kidscancercare.ab.ca.

**2007/08
Annual Report
flip here
for a mini-
sample...**

Photos courtesy of Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography

Our People

Volunteer opportunities

Camp SunKeeper

November 21-23
Counsellors, medical support and oncology nurses needed

Parents' Quest gala

Saturday, February 28, 2009
Gala and silent auction volunteers needed

Finding the place that moves people



Sharlene Coulter knows the importance of understanding volunteers.

"Volunteerism is about engagement," says Sharlene, who came on board as KCCFA's new manager of volunteers in June. "It's my job to find out how to engage each and every volunteer and how to keep them engaged for years.

Building on the successes of the current volunteer program, Sharlene plans to create a personalized volunteer opportunity for each and every volunteer who walks through the door. That's about 160 people in a given year. And, for Sharlene, that means listening closely and finding out what motivates them.

"It's important to find out why they are volunteering" says Sharlene. "What's important to them? And what do they need to get out of the experience?" It's about hitting that perfect balance between the needs and interests of the Foundation and those of the volunteers. Sharlene plans to find that balance.

A jazz dancer and teacher in her spare time, Sharlene is confident she'll be able to find that place of motivation in her volunteers. "It's like dancing or any form of creative expression," she says. "You have to find that place inside that moves you. Once you know it, you're partly there."

And after that? It's volunteer recognition. This is perhaps the most exciting part for Sharlene. "Being able to properly recognize people who give to kids in need has got to be the greatest job in the world," she beams. "KCCFA totally gets the importance of proper volunteer recognition. It's wonderful to be in a position that is so well-supported."

*"We have such a great cause and we have such an **eclectic** range of opportunities."*

"Volunteers need to feel as connected as employees," says Sharlene, who oversaw the volunteer program at Big Brothers and Big Sisters for three years. For Sharlene, that means providing them with challenging opportunities, which help create a sense of ownership in the Foundation. In Sharlene's mind, this shouldn't be difficult: "We have such a great cause and we have such an eclectic range of opportunities—from working with kids to special events, committee and office work."



Sharlene (right) and KCCFA events coordinator Roz Freeman on the job at our golf tournament.

Behind the scenes with the Dewey Decimal system

When she lost a friend to skin cancer at age 35, LeeAndre Gladue realized that cancer doesn't always go hand-in-hand with age—as was the case with her grandparents. LeeAndre later discovered that cancer can actually occur at any age and certainly does not exclude children.

Recalling the young people in her life—nieces and nephews—and their abject fear of hospitals, LeeAndre took it upon herself to shed light on these fears. She now volunteers her time at KCCFA by creating a catalogue system for our Family Resource Centre. Designed to help children and families understand cancer, hospitals and treatment protocols better, the resource centre includes a collection of picture books, videos, magazines, brochures and journals.

A full-time hairstylist studying to become a library technician, LeeAndre realizes that most people probably can't relate to her passion for the Dewey Decimal system. But they can probably relate to her busy schedule. When she's not styling hair or studying for exams,

LeeAndre enjoys bicycling, listening to music, knitting, cooking, kayaking and spending time with friends. Her busy schedule hardly leaves time for volunteering but fortunately for KCCFA, she makes time. LeeAndre believes that "every one should be socially conscious and responsible" and strive to make a difference in the community. LeeAndre is an exemplary role model: the super busy person who still manages to give back by making volunteering a priority.

Interested in checking out our Family Resource Centre or LeeAndre's use of the Dewey Decimal system? Call Tracey Huddy at 403.984.1223 or email huddy@kidscancercare.ab.ca.



Photo courtesy of LeeAndre Gladue.

LeeAndre Gladue brings her sunny personality and strong work ethic to KCCFA, cataloguing resources in the KCCFA Family Resource Centre.



Little Tree (soft cover, 30 p.)
by Joyce C. Mills
illustrations by Michael Chesworth

Little Tree, available at the KCCFA Family Resource Centre, is a lovely story for children with serious medical problems. It is aimed at children ages four to eight, but the theme and story can be enjoyed and understood at any age.

When *Little Tree* loses some of its branches in a storm, her friend Amanda summons the tree wizards for help. Gently, they explain that they must remove the broken branches they cannot repair. They warmly guide *Little Tree* through her physical and emotional experiences until she heals and sees the strengths she's had all along.

The beautiful and simple black and white illustrations and the short, descriptive story appeal to children, while expressing the complex emotions children experience when facing a serious illness. Messages of hope and healing are intertwined with descriptions of medical procedures such as examinations, surgeries and amputations.

The importance and beauty of this little book lie in the message that all of us possess the strength to overcome the challenges with which life presents us and nothing can change the core of who we are.

Reviewed by LeeAndre Gladue

Perspectives

Look for Corban's story
in the mail next month

Corban's journey

Meet Corban.



Corban is a beautiful boy who brings joy to everyone he meets. He smiles a lot and is full of wonder for the world. He loves dinosaurs and everything to do with stars and outer space. And he **LOVES** camp.

Corban is nine years old and just learning to walk again. This might sound like bad news for a nine-year-old boy but, in Corban's family, it's great news. You see, there was a time when doctors thought Corban would never walk again. But Corban is this amazing kid with an unbelievable spirit who has managed to defy incredible odds.

Seven years ago this month, Corban was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis and stage three neuroblastoma—a cancer that affects the central nervous system. Since then, Corban and his mom and dad—Tara and Alan—have been through an incredible journey.

Please take a moment to read about Corban's journey in our **fall fundraising appeal**, if you receive a copy in your mailbox next month. It is a story of tremendous hope and courage and we hope it will inspire you to help children like Corban by donating to KCCFA.

Seven years ago, Corban was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis and stage three neuroblastoma. Look for Corban in our fall fundraising letter, where you can read about his family's incredible journey.



Corban and the Easter Bunny. He makes friends where ever he goes.



Remember, if you don't receive a copy of the letter by mail, you can read it and donate online, by visiting **kidscan-cercare.ab.ca**.



Centre top – Corban at camp.

Centre bottom – Corban stands here with a bit of help from the railing. He has come a long way since his diagnoses in October 2001. All the way Corban!

Above – Corban is a joy to be around. People are drawn to him.

Photos courtesy of the Hunt family

Our Sponsors

It's a Wrap

Big-gala spending means big dollars for research

Calgarians dressed in their finest Saturday, March 15 for the 2008 Parents' Quest for the Cure gala, presented by Meyers Norris Penny LLP. The gala event featured a champagne reception followed by a fabulous gourmet meal prepared by Calgary chef Michael Batke of the Westin. Enticing live and silent auction items and a surprise performance by the Three Waiters, an operatic serving trio with a lot to say, kept guests entertained. The event raised more than \$140,000 for childhood cancer research, bringing event revenues over the last five years to more than \$500,000.



Unique Perspectives Artistic Photography

Dave Kelly of CityTV with Kathleen Kirzinger (left) and Lisa Clarke-Potts, who co-founded Parents' Quest five years ago.

Riding outside the lines

The 2008 Trico Homes Ride for a Lifetime was a rip-roaring success with 108 riders raising more than \$360,000 for childhood cancer research. The three-day ride from Calgary to the interior of B.C. raised a lot of cash, a lot of fun and more than a few eyebrows along the way. A few highlights:

full-out spa and salon experience with bikers lounging in cushy bathrobes between massages. Richard Gotfried and Allan Cayen of Trico Homes received wax jobs on their chests and Jo-Lynn Wesley and Ralph Christoffersen received haircuts KCCFA-style. Gotfried's wax job raised more than \$30,000—\$5,000 above his fundraising goal—and Cayen's saw another \$15,000 for the kids. Spaaa-tecular guys!

Austin Powers all the way

Waxed, shaved and ready to go, the bikers enjoyed an evening with the oh-so-groovy Austin Powers and his famous fembots, followed by a surprise performance by the hip-thrusting King himself—Elvis!

Don't miss next year's events. See page 12 for details or visit **kidscancercare.ab.ca**.

These events help make research possible. To find out more about KCCFA-supported research and the headway its making, see our **mini-annual report** in the centre of this newsletter or visit our website.

Pink tutus and black leather

Calgary brothers Kevin and Earl Pierson were the talk of the town—all towns from Calgary to Revelstoke—as they gunned their bikes donning black leathers and pink tutus. The dynamic duo agreed to wear their tutus for a day of riding for every \$1,000 they raised above their original fundraising goal.

Biker spaaaah

Friday night in Revelstoke turned into a

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Mike Drew, Sun Media Corp.

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Fundraising Events



Mike Drew Sun Media Corp.

Parents' Quest for the Cure Ice Gala

presented by Meyers Norris Penny LLP
Saturday, February 28, 2009
The Calgary Westin
320 4th Avenue SW

Get ready for the cool elegance of KCCFA's Ice Gala. Fresh, vibrant, chic. Don't miss it.

Check out our website or email freeman@kidscancercare.ab.ca for details on the coolest opportunity in town for donors, sponsors and volunteers.

Trico Homes Ride for a Lifetime

June 19 – 21, 2009

Join the weekend warriors who are helping change the face of childhood cancer one kilometre at a time on the 2009 Trico Homes Ride for a Lifetime. This executive motorcycle ride raises money for childhood cancer research and will take you on some of the most scenic highways in western Canada. The ride fills up fast, so mark your calendar today to register early. Registration opens **February 1**. Registration includes fuel, meals, accommodation and entertainment.

For details on the ride, call 403.984.1225 or email staff@kidscancercare.ab.ca.

We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you about KCCFA's activities. If you wish to alter the amount or type of mail you receive, please call us at 403.216.9210 or email staff@kidscancercare.ab.ca.

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