

Connecting neighbours. | August 2023

### **Belgravia Community League**

11540 73 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T6G 0G1

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 52202

Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

**Contact Us** 

Email: info@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Phone: 780-437-1866 (phone not monitored)

Visit us Online

Website: <u>belgraviaedmonton.ca</u>
Facebook: <u>belgraviaedmonton</u>
Twitter: @belgraviaYEG

Next submission deadline: September 14, 2023

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### About our Newsletter

Published by the Belgravia Community League, the belgravian connects you with community news, programs, events and other developments in and around the Belgravia area.

### Frequency

We publish 6 issues per year.

### **Monthly Distribution**

We deliver ~1,100 copies to homes in Belgravia.

Read us online: <u>belgraviaedmonton.ca/newsletter</u>

### Send us your stories

Article submissions are subject to editorial discretion

and available space. To submit an article, contact newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Issue	Content Deadline	Delivery
February 2023	Jan 19	Feb 4/5
April 2023	Mar 16	Mar 25/26
June 2023	May 18	May 27/28
August 2023	July 13	July 22/23
October 2023	Sept 14	Sep 23/24
December 2023	Nov 16	Nov 25/26

### **ADVERTISE WITH US**

Ads can be submitted to: newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca

### File Types & Resolution

We accept ads in PDF, JPG, PNG and TIF formats – 200 dpi at 100% (full-size).

### **Ad Payment Methods**

Cheque: payable to Belgravia Community League. Mail to: Belgravia Community League,

P.O. Box 52202, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2T5

E-transfer: <a href="mailto:treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca">treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a> – include message: 'Newsletter Ad'.

Rates per Issue: Get a 10% discount for multiple ads paid in advance.

#### 1/4 page 1/2 page Card size 8.5 cm x 12 cm 18 cm x 12 cm 8.5 cm x 6 cm All businesses Belgravia, McKernan, Windsor Belgravia, McKernan, Windsor Park businesses only Park businesses only BCL Member: \$25 BCL Member: \$75 BCL Member: \$50 Non-Member: \$50 Non-Member: \$75 Non-Member: \$100



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# Board & Committee Contacts

<b>BCL Board Members</b>			
President	Michael Cohen	president@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
Vice President	Eleanor Olszewski	vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
Past President	Cory Dawson	pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
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Treasurer	Shirley Perry	treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
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Planning & Place Director	Don Grimble	planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
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Programs Director	Debbie Smith	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
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Director-at-Large	Christina Lau Hoang	director2@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
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Website Administrator	Tim Janzen	webmaster@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
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Pumpkin Party, Casino	Reg & Jane Norby	norby@shaw.ca	
Facilities Team			
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Hall Manager and rentals	Shauna Lengyel	hallmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
Rink Manager	Simon Gosgnach	rinkmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
Arts Park Team Leader	Kathy Goble	facilities@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
Sustainability Coordinator	Imogen Sellman	sustainability@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
<b>Community Connections Team</b>			
Neighbourhood Resource Coord.	Kate Russell	kate.russell@edmonton.ca	
Elementary Liaison	Cory Dawson	info@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
Traffic Committee Chair	Christine Taylor	traffic@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
Belmac Soccer Coordinator	Alykhan Sumar	belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
Belgravia Watch	Richard Law	belgraviawatch@gmail.com	

### Get Involved

Established in 1954, Belgravia Community League (BCL) owns and operates the Hall and rink, built the playgrounds by the school, and developed and maintains the Arts Park – all on land leased from the City. BCL offers many programs and activities and is crucial for representing our neighbourhood interests to City Council on transportation, development and other issues. Support your community by buying a membership and volunteering. We have fine facilities, solid finances and fun programs. You'll be delighted by the great people you'll meet while helping out your community.

### **BECOME A MEMBER**

Belgravia Community League Membership benefits include:

- BCL Hall rental privileges, including Hall Wifi
- BCL member advertising rate in the belgravian
- Member rate for programs at the Hall
- Complimentary access to BCL events like Fall BBQ, Pumpkin Party, Family Day
- Optional signup for BCL Member email updates with important messages between publications of the belgravian newsletter
- Participation in kids' City soccer and hockey (S.W.A.T.) programs
- Discounts for passes and monthly memberships at City of Edmonton recreation facilities through the Community League Wellness Pass
- A number of offers at Orbis Sports
- University of Alberta technology training: training@ualberta.ca
- Posters, wall murals and other printing jobs at Campus Design & Print Solutions: print@ualberta.ca

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Please consider joining the BCL's team of volunteers. It's a great way to meet new friends and contribute to our community. We have current or pending openings for the following volunteer positions:

Director of Planning and Place: Represents the BCL in interactions with the City of Edmonton and developers on issues of development and traffic, and keeps residents informed. Jerreck did a wonderful job with this role the past few years, followed by Don who is now ready to pass it on. It's a good match for someone who is interested in civic affairs and the way Edmonton and Belgravia will develop.

**Vice President**: The VP assists the President and Board of the BCL in diverse tasks, and is free to work on projects of personal interest. The VP generally becomes President after a two-year term, although this is not essential.

The BCL is only as strong as its members.

### Please join!

Buy a membership online at: belgraviaedmonton.ca/bcl-membership/

Or email: membership@belgraviaedmonton.ca

If you're new to Belgravia, memberships are complimentary for the first year.

### Get Involved

#### CHARLES SIMMONDS PARK RENEWAL PROJECT: CALL FOR DONATIONS

A final design that focuses on inclusivity and accessibility while retaining open space has been approved for construction in 2024. The playground will remain in its current location and the following enhancements will be added:

- 1. Playground: new playground equipment and accessible wood chip surface
- 2. Accessibility: a paved, asphalt pathway along the north side of the park from 115 Street to the playground will provide access to the park and the playground for people of all ages and abilities
- 3. Seating: seating will be added along the pathway and around the playground
- 4. Picnic tables: permanent picnic tables will be located at the playground and along the path
- 5. Covered picnic shelter: a covered picnic shelter will also be located by the playground.

The total community cost for the project is \$464,000 and we only have \$28,000 left to raise.

### Please donate to the park renewal project:

- E-transfer to: mckernancspfundraiser@gmail.com
- Cheques made out to: City of Edmonton (with Charles Simmonds Park Renewal in the Memo line)
   can be dropped off or mailed to the McKernan Community League at 11341 78 Ave NW, Edmonton,
   AB T6G 0N1

### Include the following information with any donation:

- Name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Do you want a public acknowledgement of your donation? (will not include donation amount)
- Do you want a tax receipt? Yes/No (see below)

### How to apply for tax receipt (for donations \$20 or more)

- 1. Complete the Charles Simmonds Park Donor Information Form available on the McKernan Community League website.
- 2. Email completed your form to mckernancspfundraiser@gmail.com or drop it off/mail to: McKernan Community League (address above).

Please note: The City of Edmonton maintains its discretion to issue tax receipts subject to all City conditions being met and is not legally obligated to issue a tax receipt. Promises of any kind that the donor will receive anything of value in exchange for their cash donation cannot be made to the donor at any time.

### BELGRAVIA RINK RENEWAL PROJECT UPDATE

by Tom Hinch

### **Project overview**

The Belgravia Community League (BCL) Board has initiated a community-based planning process for renewal of its outdoor rink. The purpose of the project is "to replace the BCL's outdoor rink, which is reaching the end of its life cycle, with a new rink that will serve as a sustainable year-round activity area for the community of Belgravia."

### **Process**

The redevelopment process was initiated in 2022 and is anticipated to take 2 to 3 more years. It follows the City of Edmonton's community led model inclusive of the following phases:



This process is being coordinated by a project team of community volunteers, which reports to the Board of the BCL. The Board's reviews reports/recommendations and decides how to proceed at the conclusion of each phase of the project. City of Edmonton planners review these decisions to ensure that the project meets City regulations and standards.

Community engagement is a critical part of the project inclusive of: needs assessment, information sharing and consultation – during the strategy, concept and design phases. Success will be judged in terms of how well rink renewal meets community needs through its performance as a recreation and social hub in Belgravia. Community members who have questions about the project or who would like to become more directly involved are encouraged to contact us at rinkrenewal@belgraviaedmonton.ca

### Strategy Phase (2022)

This phase was designed to set the underlying strategy for the project, a key element being the completion of a needs analysis survey. Based on the results of this survey, the experience of other communities with similar projects, and additional research a Community Led Business Case (Part 1 – Strategy) a report was submitted to the BCL Board with a recommendation **that renewal take the form of a traditional boarded rink with a hard surface (e.g. concrete)**. This option would facilitate activities like skating and hockey in the winter and racquet sports and basketball during the spring, summer and fall. A preliminary estimate for the project was \$450,000, with the costs being covered by a combination of grants, BCL funds and a fundraising campaign. The BCL Board approved the strategy subject to financial resources and on-going assessment inclusive of continued public engagement.

### Where we are: Concept Phase (2023)

The Concept Phase of the project is intended to build on the foundations provided in the Strategy Phase. It brings the project concept to life by continuing to explore project feasibility, identifying risks and mitigation strategies, identifying stakeholder requirements, developing a fundraising plan, and hiring or designating a project manager.

**Feasibility in terms of capital costs:** Due to inflation and the addition of new rink components such as weeping tile to address drainage concerns, the estimated capital costs for the project have increased substantially in the past year. They are now estimated at \$650,000 inclusive of a 15%

contingency buffer. The substantial cost represents a risk to the project, the major mitigation strategy being to scale back the concept to a turf surface rather than a concrete surface, and decrease the cost.

**Stakeholder input:** A meeting was held with the immediate neighbours of the rink site on March 9, 2023, along with some additional submissions received by email. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- brief neighbours on the proposed renewal concept (four-season outdoor activity centre with boards and a hard surface)
- answer questions on the project
- solicit their views on the potential benefits, negative impacts and ways of mitigating these impacts

Highlights of stakeholder perspectives were as follows:

### **Benefits**

- 1. easier ice making on a hard surface
- 2. reduction of current light pollution
- 3. the replacement of a rink that is rapidly reaching the end of its life cycle

### Impact concerns

- 1. the potential for increased noise especially if pickleball is one of the new activities
- 2. environmental concerns associated with a hard rink surface
- 3. possible drainage issues
- 4. increased management requirements in the spring, summer and fall

### Mitigation strategies

- 1. retain a turf surface
- incorporate design features such as weeping tile to address drainage issues and berms & planting to buffer noise
- implement management regulations like restricting the range of activities that would be allowed at the site and the timing of activities

### **NEXT STEPS**

### Fundraising plan

The Project Team is looking for help in developing and executing a fundraising campaign. Please contact Larry Krushelnitzky at <a href="mailto:rinkrenewal@belgraviaedmonton.ca">rinkrenewal@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a> if you have an interest in fundraising for this project.

### Open House, fall 2023

Belgravia residents are invited to view and provide feedback on the refined rink renewal concept at an Open House. Details to be announced.



Photo credit: D. Shepherd

# Programs

### **SUMMER 2023 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES AT THE HALL**

We have some exciting programs for Belgravians to join and meet up with friends just a walk away from home. Contact us for information and/or to register in an activity.

Activity	Day	Time	Hall	Registration Contact
Pilaga (Pilates/Yoga)	Mondays: end of Sept TBC	8:30–9:30 am	Upper	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca or call: 780-722-6480
Soapstone Carving	Mondays: end of Sept TBC	7–9 pm	Upper	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca  Max. 16/class For more info: patgal@shaw.ca
Boot Camp	Tuesdays Thursdays	7:30–8:30 am 8–9 am	Upper (outside, weather permitting	susan.andrew@shaw.ca or jennifer.klein@ualberta.ca
Mat Yoga	Tuesdays: Jul 11-Aug 15 Thursdays: Jul 13-Aug 17	9:45-10:45 am 9:45-10:45 am	Upper	hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca  Drop-ins welcome
Fit for Life	Tuesdays: Jul 11-Aug 15	11–12 noon	Upper	hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca  Drop-ins welcome
Pilates/Barre	Tuesdays: June 6-Aug 8	7–8 pm	Lower	t.e.fedoruk@icloud.com  Drop-ins welcome
BCL Knitters Group	Tuesdays	7:30–9 pm	Upper	mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca
NIA Dance	Thursdays	7–8 pm	Upper	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Walking Club	Wednesdays (no fee)	10 am	Upper Door	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca

### **Belgravia Walking Club**

Meet us Wednesday mornings at 10 am at the upper BCL Hall doors, where neighbours head out to nearby enjoy trails and nature. Some rarely miss a walk while others drop in when they can. It's great exercise at a pace dependent on the walkers, and varies from 1-2 hours depending on the weather. Drop-ins welcome. No fee or registration needed.

Belgravia Community League presents

# MUSICIN THE ARTS PARK







# AUGUST 9TH

6:30 - Marty Pawlina

7:00 - Stevon & Kayla with The Heavenly Band

Bring your own blankets and chairs

Bring cash for refreshments by Young Belgravians to fundraise for the Rink Renewal and for Musicians Tips









St. Pauls United Church Edmonton
An Affirming Congregation



# **Upcoming Events**

### **COMMUNITY LEAGUE DAY 2023**

Save the date: Saturday, September 16, 2023 (1-5 pm)



MUCH bigger than last year, you won't want to miss The Obstacle Course!

"The Obstacle Course" is back for this year's Community League Day – 40' longer, and wider too! At 100 feet of fun, more kids can enjoy The Obstacle Course at once, and more fun can be had! At the event, Belgravians can also enjoy musical entertainment, BBQ for all and, of course, the Belgravia Community League AGM – so you can join our board and help plan future events like this one.

### How to get involved

Volunteers are needed to help make Community League Day a success. We also invite you to provide door prizes to promote your business, or just because you would like to give a door prize.

To volunteer or donate door prizes, email Shirley <a href="mailto:stbperry@shaw.ca">stbperry@shaw.ca</a>, or call/text her at 825-439-7960.

See you there!

### ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Sunday morning worship 10:30

A variety of rental spaces available

### **WELCOME NEIGHBOURS!**

Please join us:

Sept 10: BBQ and new children and youth

programs begin

Oct 1st: St. Paul's 75th Anniversary

Celebration

office 780-436-1555

email: office@stpaulsunited.org

website: stpaulsunited.org



A proud member of the Belgravia community





### City News

### **Discounts at City recreation facilities**

With your annual BCL membership, you can buy discounted access to City of Edmonton recreation facilities through the Community League Wellness Pass.

### Find out how it works:

https://www.edmonton.ca/activities\_parks\_rec reation/community-league-wellness-program

### **Day Camps and Recreation Opportunities**

The City of Edmonton is offering a wide range of Day camps at Recreation centres, River Valley parks, City Arts Centre and more, as well as physical recreation opportunities and Drop-in activities (including Green Shacks) for children, youth and adults for the 2023 summer season.

For details, check out movelearnplay.edmonton.ca/

### Single-Use Item Bylaw as of July 1

Thank you for taking steps to help reduce waste in Edmonton! Reducing single-use items means less litter and less waste in the landfill. It also means fewer emissions when producing, shipping and disposing of these items.

See: edmonton.ca/SingleUse.

### PIANO - THEORY - VOICE LESSONS

All ages, all levels. Classical, pop. B. Mus. & ARCT in Piano Performance. Member of ARMTA. Piano examiner & music festival adjudicator.

Accompanist for Chanteuses and Festival Singers. Instrumental & Vocal coaching for exams, auditions, recitals, recordings. Works with The Kings University College & Opera Theatre of Alberta. Music for weddings, funerals and private functions.

Contact: Linda Steinbring, Email:

lindasteingbring3@gmail.com, Phone: 780-435-4657



### DO YOU HAVE A HOUSE OR CONDO FOR RENT?

Mature Belgravia couple (non-smokers) with small dog looking to rent a home in Belgravia from late spring 2024 – for up to 12 months. If interested, please leave a message at:

Phone 780-435-5093, or Email: nmrbloke@gmail.com

# Meet Your (Tree) Neighbours

Our regular *Meet Your Neighbour* feature has run in *the belgravian* for 11 years under the loving guidance of long-time Belgravia resident and community builder, Jeanette Boman. Visit the BCL website to read all *Meet Your Neighbour* stories: belgraviaedmonton.ca/newsletters/

### **WANTED: BELGRAVIA TREE STORIES**

By Katherine Koller

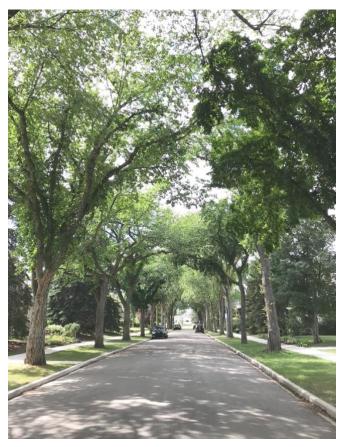
Belgravia has many trees. To start with,
Saskatchewan Drive and its ravine ring around the
Belgravia neighborhood on two sides before
extending its full 7.2-kilometer length around Windsor
Park and the University of Alberta campus. In
addition, Belgravia contains two parks (Charles
Simmonds Park and Belgravia Art Park), a suite of
streets and avenues lined with American Elms, two
pocket "triangle parks" on 118 Street and, of course,
instant access to the River Valley from the Keillor
Road pathway.

The benefits of the tree canopy on these public lands include shade, beauty, temperature regulation, "feelgood" pheromones, carbon capture and water absorption. Some researchers believe that "green infrastructure in urban areas... not only reduces the changes and mitigates the alterations caused by urbanization but also helps adapt to climate change" (K. Sabret and M. Sraj, "Can Urban Trees Reduce the Impact of Climate Change on Storm Runoff?").

### If trees could talk

The trees of Belgravia also hold stories. They are witnesses to the past, historians, symbol markers, legend keepers, and wonders of sustained tenacity. There are Lilacs and Lindens from old homestead properties on Saskatchewan Drive west intermingled with indigenous species like Chokecherry and Saskatoon, Poplar and Spruce, and Mountain Ash trees likely planted by birds.

According to a City of Edmonton report, the spaced, stately Elms in Belgravia were planted in the 1950s under the direction of parks planner Sandy Patterson, who faced opposition in his own Windsor Park neighborhood where some folks cut down the planted Elm saplings in protest that other trees were removed to make way for them.



American Elm arbour along 77th Avenue

In our neighbourhood there are memorial trees: at Belgravia school a tree commemorates a former student, and in the art park fruit trees mark a wedding that took place there and the invaluable contributions of a well-known Belgravia volunteer. There are new trees, Oaks and Pines, gracing the north "triangle park" (these pocket parks need names)!

At the southernmost fence of the Equine Centre, there are Juniper trees. Burnt and lopped trees left as insect and bird habitats on Saskatchewan Drive south of the End of the World viewpoint tell the story of a fire; they also recall a more recent blaze that was thankfully stopped by 16 firetrucks before it damaged more than one home in the neighborhood.

Saskatchewan Drive at its northernmost point in Belgravia is where my favourite tree lives – a huge Larch that turns gold in the fall. This tree was pointed out to me by a friend who does not live in the area. Since then, I always look for it on my way in and out of the neighborhood. It reminds me of my friend, and it, too, is my friend.

In winter, the huge Spruce decorated with lights on 119 St and 78 Avenue always thrills me. There are other trees on private property that are stunning specimens: Majestic Weeping Birch, Ponderosa Pine, Scots Pine and Horse Chestnut trees are all on my walking paths.

Trees give us our history but may also give us our future. The City of Edmonton has pledged to plant 2 million trees by 2050. Some, like Diana Beresford-Kroeger (To Speak for the Trees) say that trees are our only hope against climate change.

### Send us YOUR tree stories

In the words of former City Councillor Lila Fahlman, let's celebrate the "kindliness of trees" (Edmonton Journal, 11 Oct 1966) and stimulate our curiosity about our tree neighbours.

Last year, naturalist Elisabeth Beaubien wrote about the "Harry Potter" Basswood trees on 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue in *the belgravian*. What is YOUR favourite Belgravia tree?

Email your tree stories to newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca

### About the author

Longtime Belgravia resident Katherine Koller writes for stage, screen and page. Her books include *Art Lessons*, a novel about a girl obsessed with drawing trees, *Voices of the Land* (plays) and *Winning Chance* (stories). Her web series *Sustainable Me* follows young Edmontonians designing a sustainable future: sustainablemeyeg.ca



Katherine's favourite tree, a Larch on Saskatchewan Drive that turns gold in the fall

### Feature Poem

#### TRAPPED!

At our May 27th *Made in Belgravia* presentation on the history of <u>Juvenilia Press</u>, Juliet McMaster wrapped up with the poem "Trapped" – to everyone's delight! Asked if we could feature the poem in *the belgravian*, Juliet tracked down Catherine Smith, the poem's writer and illustrator. Catherine, who now lives in Montana, was part of a group of Belgravia kids that Juliet taught and encouraged to write in 1983. Catherine answered YES! when Juliet invited her to publish her poem in our newsletter, Her mom and dad (Roger and Libby Smith) and their family were well-loved community members. When Roger left the U of A, they retired to their family land in Montana and are still remembered by many in the community.

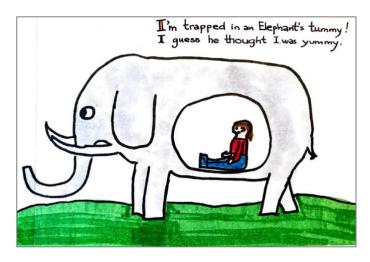
### Trapped!

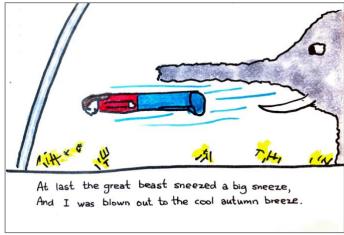
by Catherine Smith. 1983

I'm trapped in an elephant's tummy!
I guess he thought I was yummy.
Yesterday at the Zoo
I was tying my shoe
By the elephant's cage with my mummy,
And that big brute of a dummy
He swallowed me whole;
And I ended up down in his tummy.

My mom was so desperate out there in the breeze Thatshe sprinkled pepper to make the elephant sneeze. Her idea was wonderful, great as can be, And I think she thought of it 'cause she loves me. At last the great beast sneezed a big sneeze, And I was blown out to the cool autumn breeze.

Now I warn you, all folks of different ages, Stay far, far away from elephants' cages.





# Brain Games

### TREED WORD SEARCH

Arbour Spruce Larch
Elm Canopy Crabapple
Lilac Ash Chestnut
Linden Pine Sapling

Chokecherry Oak Saskatoon Stand

Poplar

HCFAQISAPLINGDS U K P S K  $\mathbf{C}$ R Δ Υ S C Α Z B Δ N R В G O B Ε R SASKA KEVABBWFQHW



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