



— NIAGARA PENINSULA —
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

2021 ANNUAL MEETING
FND-AM-01-21
April 8, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Video Meeting

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 107/20
made under
The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act

AGENDA

“The Niagara Peninsula Watershed is located on the traditional territory of indigenous peoples dating back countless of generations. We want to show our respect for their contributions and recognize their role in treaty-making in what is now Ontario.”

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board of Directors:

Mickey DiFruscio
Robert Foster
Tom Insinna
Mary Sergenese
Chandra Sharma
Gayle Wood

NPCA/NPCF Staff

Lise Gagnon, NPCA Director, Corporate Services, NPCF Assistant Treasurer
Adam Christie, NPCA Director, Operations and Land
Andrea Crosby-DiCenso, NPCF Executive Coordinator

GUESTS

Brenda Johnson, NPCA Chair
Andrew Walker, Root Bissonnette and Walker LLP

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 1.1 Change in Order of Items
- 1.2 Motion to approve Agenda

Recommended:

That the Agenda for the NPCF Annual Meeting held April 8, 2021 be approved as printed.

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3. APPROVAL OF FOUNDATION MINUTES

- 3.1 Minutes of the NPCF Annual Meeting dated February 10, 2020 (attached)

Recommended:

That the minutes of the NPCF Annual Meeting held February 10, 2020 be approved as printed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NPCA

- 4.1 Resolution from the NPCA Appointing Donna Cridland to NPCF Board (attached)

Recommended:

That the resolution from the NPCA dated March 19, 2021 appointing Donna Cridland to the NPCF Board in addition to Rob Foster be received; and

Further that Section 1 e., Section 2.01, and Section 3 b., of NPCF By-Law #8 be revised to state that “the Chair and Vice Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, or their designates, shall be appointed by the members of the NPCA to be Directors on the NPCF Board on an annual basis. The NPCA Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer will report to the NPCF Board on a regular basis throughout their term in that position.”; and

Further that By-Law #8 be revoked on April 8, 2021 and that By-Law #9 be approved with the wording in this resolution and dated April 8, 2021.

5. 2020 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The NPCF 2020 Annual Report is attached and will be reviewed by Chair Insinna.

Recommended:

That the 2020 NPCF Annual Report be approved for distribution to donors and posted on the Foundation's website.

6. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 NPCF 2020 Audited Financial Statements

The Foundation's Auditor, Mr. Andrew Walker of Root Bissonnette Walker LLP will present the 2020 Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2020. **The Statements will be distributed separately prior to the Annual Meeting.**

Recommended:

That the 2020 Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2020 be approved, signed by the Chair and Treasurer, distributed to the the Foundation's Bankers and posted on the website.

7. ADJOURN 2020 BUSINESS

The 2020 Business Meeting will adjourn and the Chair will vacate his seat.

Recommended:

That the 2020 Business Meeting for the Foundation adjourn at _____ a.m.; and

Further That the Chair and Officers' positions be declared vacate.

2021 BUSINESS

Recommended:

THAT Ms. Lise Gagnon be appointed Chair Pro Temp to conduct the appointment of the 2021 Board of Directors and the election of the 2021 Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation.

1. APPOINTMENT OF THE 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Recommended:

THAT the following individuals be appointed to the 2021 Niagara Peninsula

Conservation Foundation with the ability to add additional Board Members in accordance with By-Law #9:

**Donna Cridland
Dominic (Mickey) DiFruscio
Robert Foster
Tom Insinna
Mary Sergenese
D. Gayle Wood.**

2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR FOR 2021

The Pro Temp Chair will outline the following election procedures:

- A mover only is required for a nomination.
- The nomination will be called three times.
- Individuals nominated will have the opportunity to address the Board in reverse order of nomination.
- A mover and seconder are required to close nominations.

Recommended:

THAT _____ be elected 2021 Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation.

3. ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIR, SECRETARY AND TREASURER FOR 2021

Recommended:

THAT _____ be elected 2021 Vice Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation.

Recommended:

THAT _____ be elected 2021 Treasurer of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation.

Recommended:

THAT _____ be elected 2021 Secretary of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation.

4. APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT TREASURER FOR 2021

Recommended:

THAT Ms. Lise Gagnon, NPCA Director, Corporate Services be appointed 2021 Assistant Treasurer to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation.

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2021

Recommended:

THAT Root Bissonnette Walker LLP be appointed as the 2021 Auditors of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation.

6. APPOINTMENT OF BANKERS FOR 2021

A review of the NPCF Bankers will be conducted in 2021 by Ms. Lise Gagnon and recommendations considered at a future meeting.

7. SCHEDULE OF 2021 MEETINGS

A schedule of meeting for 2021 was previously approved by the Board and posted on the website. Remaining meetings for 2021 are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on June 10th, August 12th, October 14th, and December 9th.

8. ADJOURN

Recommended:

THAT the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation be adjourned at _____ a.m. to be immediately followed by a Foundation Board of Directors' Meeting.



— NIAGARA PENINSULA —
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
ANNUAL MEETING**

NPCA Office – 3rd Floor Boardroom
250 Thorold Road W, Welland, Ontario

February 10, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

T. Insinna
R. Foster
M. DiFruscio
D. Gayle Wood
C. Sharma

NPCA STAFF PRESENT:

R. Bisson
B. Lee

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chair Tom Insinna and all in attendance were welcomed.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda identified nor changes in the order of agenda outlined.

Moved by: M. DiFruscio

Seconded by: Rob Foster

THAT: the agenda of the NPCF Annual Meeting dated February 10, 2020 be approved as printed.

CARRIED

(2) DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

(3) APPROVAL OF THE FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2019

Moved by: Rob Foster

Seconded by: D. Gayle Wood

THAT: the minutes of the NPCF Annual Meeting dated April 18, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

Chair Insinna declared his position vacant and moved the meeting to the Chair Pro Temp, D. Gayle Wood to conduct the 2020 elections for the Foundation

(4) ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS FOR 2020

Gayle reviewed the election rules and called for nominations for the officers of the Foundation for 2020.

Moved by: M. DiFruscio

THAT: Tom Insinna be nominated as the Foundation Chair for 2020 and that Rob Foster be nominated as the Foundation Vice Chair for 2020.

Moved by: Chandra Sharma

Seconded by Micky DeFruscio

THAT: nominations be closed and the Tom Insinna be appointed as the Foundation Chair for 2020 and that Robert Foster be appointed as the Foundation Vice Chair for 2020.

CARRIED

Moved by: Robert Foster

Seconded by: Mickey DeFruscio

THAT: D. Gayle Wood be appointed as the Foundation Secretary-Treasurer for 2020.

CARRIED

(5) ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

5.1 Approval of the 2020 Board of Directors

Moved by: Rob Foster

Seconded by: D. Gayle Wood

THAT Tom Insinna, Robert Foster, Domenic DeFruscio, Chandra Sharma and D. Gayle Wood be appointed to the 2020 Board of Directors, and

FURTHER THAT additional Board Members be appointed throughout the 2020 year as approved by the Board of Directors.

CARRIED

5.2 Approval of 2020 Auditors

Moved by: Chandra Sharma

Seconded by: Rob Foster

THAT: Root Bissonnette and Walker (RBW) be appointed as the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation (NPCF) auditors for the fiscal year of 2020.

CARRIED

5.3 Approval of Signing Authority

Moved by: Rob Foster

Seconded by: Mickey DeFruscio

THAT: Ms. Lise Gagnon, NPCA Director, Corporate Services be approved as a Foundation signing authority.

CARRIED

(6) ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the Chair called for adjournment.

Moved by: Rob Foster

That: the Foundation's Annual Meeting adjourn at 10:20 a.m. and move to the first meeting of the Board of Director's for 2020.

Tom Insinna, Chair

D. Gayle Wood, Secretary-Treasurer



DATE: March 19, 2021

MOTION:

Moved By: R. Foster

Seconded By: L. Feor

WHEREAS it has been determined that the CAO Chief Administrative Officer /Secretary-Treasurer of NPCA will participate as an ex-officio member on the Board of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation and another Authority Board member needs to be appointed to fill the second Director position on the Foundation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. **THAT** Board Member Donna Cridland **BE APPOINTED** to the Board of Directors of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation with re-affirmation to occur at the Annual General Meeting of the NPCA in June, 2021.
2. **AND FUTHER THAT** the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation be so advised.

Chair: _____
Approved by BOD on March 19, 2021



— NIAGARA PENINSULA —
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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— NIAGARA PENINSULA —
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation ended the year with a literal splash of color and lights.

In November we partnered with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to host our first Ball's Fall Holiday Trail initiative. A special Giving Weekend in December allowed us to fundraise through an outdoor, socially distanced event that provided the community with the opportunity to explore the fabulous Ball's Falls Conservation Area at night – awash with color. It was truly a magical experience.

We learned in the past year that people are craving the outdoors. This need blends well with our Foundation's mission to raise funds toward environmental endeavors that include increasing green space, improving water quality, restoring habitat, conducting environmental research, and providing education.

Despite its challenges, 2020 brought many opportunities. The Foundation and Conservation Authority developed a Memorandum of Understanding to demonstrate the commitment of both organizations to the long-time partnership. Our success would not be without the support of Conservation Authority staff who assist in the financial, administrative, communications, and operational needs of the Foundation. We also launched our first Director's Donation Challenge, where the Boards of the Foundation, Authority and the NPCA's Public Advisory Committee, in addition to Staff Directors, contributed and far exceeded our expectations. We thank you all for your participation.

We welcomed Andrea Crosby-DiCenso back as our Executive Coordinator. Andrea expressed her "delight and excitement in returning to her first passion – conservation."

We also wish to express our deepest thanks to the Foundation's Board of Directors who were enthusiastic in welcoming our newest member in 2020 - Mary Sergenese. Mary brings a wealth of fundraising talent from the health care sector. There is no doubt in our minds that our health and well being is strongly linked to our ability to connect with nature.

We also thank our many donors, sponsors, and volunteers for your exceptional support during a year that brought challenges for many. We look forward to a bright future and the promise that 2021 will bring hope and prosperity to all.

Tom Insinna
NPCF Chair

Andrea Crosby-DiCenso
Executive Coordinator



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



TOM INSINNA
Chair



D. GAYLE WOOD
Secretary-Treasurer



CHANDRA SHARMA
Director



ROB FOSTER
Vice-Chair



MARY SERGENESE
Director



DOMINIC "MICKEY" DIFRUSCIO
Director



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

VISION

A leader in providing resources to support conservation work throughout the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

MISSION

It is our mission to raise funds towards environmental endeavors that include increasing green space, improving water quality, habitat restoration, environmental research and education and conservation programs and projects, including museum projects.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Strengthen organizational governance.
2. Become Niagara's environmental charity of choice.
3. Build strong community partnerships.
4. Continue with ongoing programs.
5. Development a Fundraising Strategy.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation (NPCF) is a registered charity that was founded on May 5, 1969.

Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, we fundraise in support of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) towards projects that aid in the conservation of our natural resources for present and future generations.

When you donate to the Foundation, you help sustain conservation projects and programs that contribute to improving our watershed.

Donations can be made online at:
www.niagaraconservationfoundation.com



FINANCIALS

CHART/GRAPH

CHART/GRAPH

REVENUES

Endowment - \$

Restricted/Nevada - \$

Unrestricted/Donations - \$

Total Revenues - \$

EXPENSES

Administration - \$

Bursaries - \$

Special Events - \$

Total Expenses - \$



MEMORIAL PROGRAM



2020 REVENUE

- A total of five benches were installed in 2020.
- Total revenue: \$13,500.



2021 OVERVIEW

- \$5,000.00 per bench (including plaque and tax)
- 10% deposit required (non-refundable)
- Tax receipt provided by NPCF
- Installation June to October

If you're interested in participating in our Memorial Program, please email foundation@npcf.ca or online at niagaraconservationfoundation.com



COMFORT MAPLE PENS

The Comfort Maple Conservation Area conserves what is widely believed to be the oldest and finest sugar maple tree in Canada, estimated to be over 540 years old, and was designated a heritage tree in June 2000 under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Originally in an area of hardwood forest, the tree's size and shape suggest the forest was cleared when the tree was still young, likely for agricultural purposes. The 0.2-hectare area was land owned by the Crown and granted to Major Robert Secord in 1808. It was then sold by the Secord family to the Comfort family in 1816, and later entrusted to the NPCA on April 30, 1961 by Miss Edna Eleanor Comfort (Lease for 999 years), to conserve the 'old growth' tree for its historical and biological significance.

Over the years, NPCA arborists have collected the wood pruned annually for repair and health, and in 2015, the NPCF launched a fundraiser selling pens by turner Marv Ens of Fenwick, ON. Mr. Ens continues to make these hand-crafted pens to preserve and highlight the beauty and character of this magnificent tree. It is truly a "one of a kind" writing instrument.

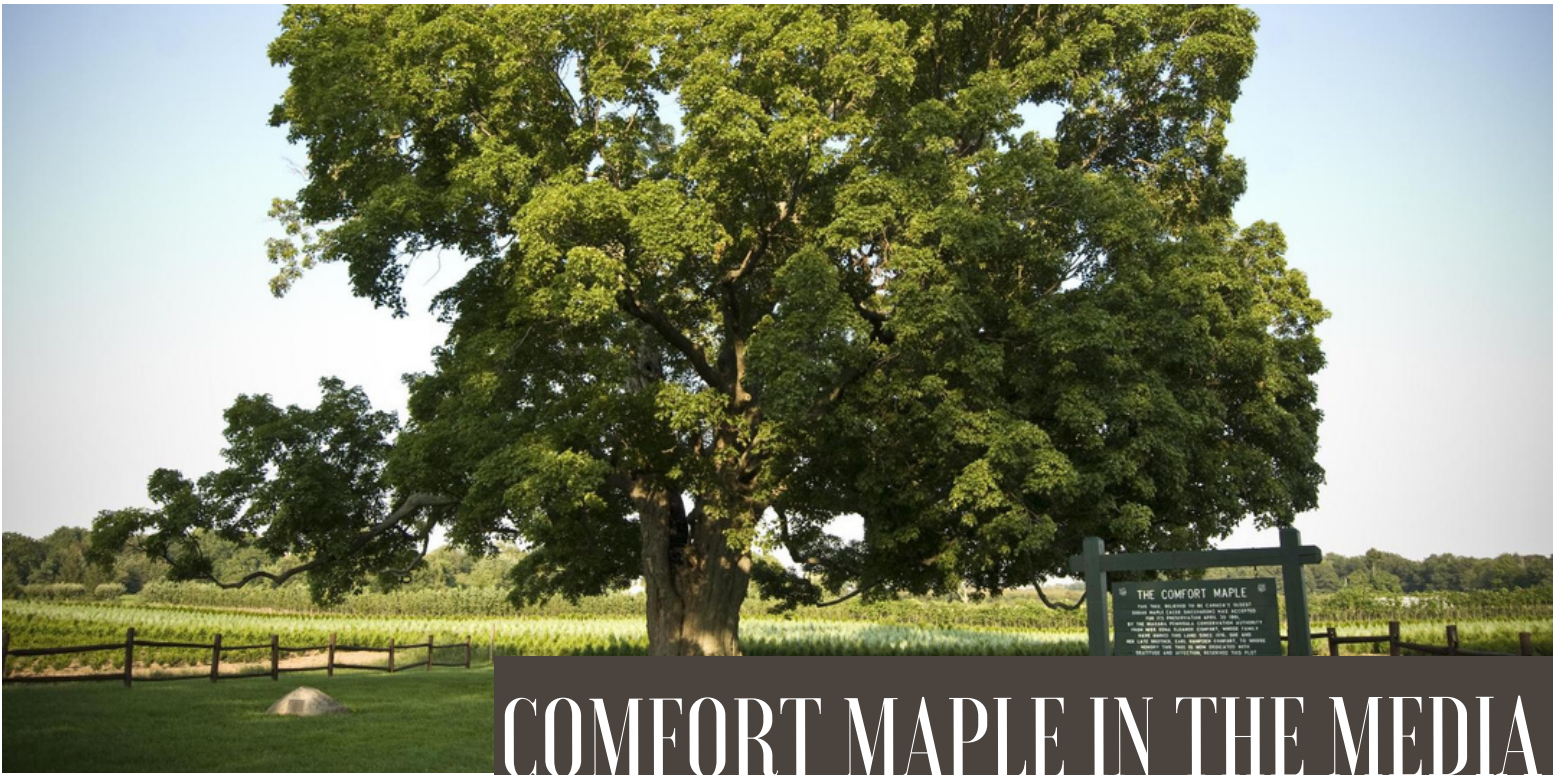


2020 REVENUE

- A total of 19 pens were sold
- Total revenue: \$ 1,900

To purchase your own piece of Canadian Heritage, please email foundation@npca.ca or online at niagaraconservationfoundation.com





COMFORT MAPLE IN THE MEDIA

THE COMFORT MAPLE TREE
HAS BEEN FEATURED BY:

[CTV](#)

[Toronto Star](#)

[CBC](#)

[National Post](#)

[National Observer](#)

[Cottage Life](#)

[YourTV Cogeco](#)

[Narcity.com](#)

[The Voice of Pelham](#)

[Niagara This Week](#)

[St. Catharines Standard](#)

[Histoires d'Arbres Saison 2 Les Nourriciers](#)

(French Documentary)





DIRECTORS DONATION

The Directors' Donation Challenge was a new initiative launched in 2020. This idea stemmed from esteemed Foundation Member Dominic "Mickey" DiFruscio who envisioned that every Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation and Conservation Authority Board Member should donate to protect greenspace and enhance environmental education.

Foundation Chair Tom Insinna and Conservation Authority Chair Brenda Johnson led the charge! This initiative resulted in close to \$8,000 raised from Board Members, Staff Directors, and the Authority's Public Advisory Committee.

Chair Insinna marvelled at Chair Johnson's leadership by donating her Conservation Authority honourarium to this fundraising initiative. Chair Johnson noted that "It's important to lead by example. Representing the City of Hamilton on the Authority Board, I want to ensure that part of my donation is focused on the Binbrook Conservation Area and the great work done by the Glanbrook Conservation Committee."

"The importance of protecting greenspace has never been more prominent in the minds of the watershed community than during the last year" stated Chair Insinna. "On behalf of the Foundation, I want to thank all those who generously supported our work in 2020."





NPCF GIVING WEEKEND

AS PART OF THE **BALL'S FALLS** HOLIDAY TRAIL

The Foundation and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) welcomed the community to beautiful Ball's Falls Conservation Area this winter season as part of the Holiday Trail. The initiative received significant attention bringing in guests from all over the region to share in a new holiday tradition which safely allowed them to enjoy this illuminated hiking experience at their leisure during pre-booked time slots.

Guests began at the Centre for Conservation where they were greeted by staff, and a number of holiday displays and decor generously sponsored by Niagara Nurseries, Rice Road Greenhouse, Gauld Nurseries and Songbird Christmas Tree Farm. After exiting the Centre, guests journeyed down the Switchback Trail, crossing over the Twenty Mile Creek on the illuminated bridge, to the magically lit village of Glen Elgin featuring an illuminated Barn, Chapel, Cabin and Victorian Home. To complete their experience, guests were encouraged to take in the breathtaking views of the lower falls, illuminated to showcase what Ball's Falls is known for.

The Foundation held a Giving Weekend from December 12th - 13th with a kickoff event on December 11th. The Foundation saw a total of 319 registrations which translated to 1,041 guests and raised \$6,221.24.

"In light of not being able to hold physical events this year, this is a great starting point for both the Authority and Foundation to begin a new tradition, one that will only improve in the coming years," said Tom Insinna, Foundation Board Chair. "It's been a tough year for all, so we are hoping to - quite literally - shed some light on everyone's holiday season."





RT. HON. JOHN TURNER

The Niagara Peninsula is a summary of what water can do for our nation and community. We have a good fortune of having 20% of the fresh water in the world and citizens have to be concerned about conserving it.

RT. HON. JOHN TURNER



In 2015, the Rt. Hon. John Turner Water & Environmental Leadership Award Gala was established as a signature event of the Foundation, held at Queen's Landing Hotel in picturesque Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Award Gala recognizes outstanding work in environmental and water improvement, education and leadership by individuals or organizations that reside in the Region of Niagara, City of Hamilton and Haldimand County.

Proceeds from the event support conservation improvement projects within the NPCA watershed, as well as a scholarship at Brock University and bursary at Niagara College for students pursuing post-secondary education in environmental studies.

The Water & Leadership Award honors the passion, dedication and commitment of Canada's 17th Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. John Turner who brought forth a strong and influential voice to issues surrounding the protection of Canada's natural resources. Although the Gala hasn't been held since 2018, it is hoping to return in the near future.



IN MEMORIAM 1929-2021

Mr. Turner served in the House of Commons for almost 25 years and is the only person in Canadian history to have represented three provinces as a Member of Parliament: Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

A strong passion for the great outdoors, he canoed all over Canada including epic trips with his family and friend Bob Engle into the waterways of the Northwest Territories, with his final canoe trip through Algonquin Park in his 77th year.

The Right Honourable John Napier Wyndham Turner P.C., C.C., Q.C. passed away peacefully at home in Toronto on September 19, 2020, at the age of 91.





THANK YOU

On behalf of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Board of Directors, we wish to extend a sincere thank you to all our donors, corporate sponsors, partners and volunteers.

Your generous support of our organization allows us to continue providing resources to conservation projects across the Niagara watershed that benefit all residents in the community for present and future generations.

CORPORATE SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)

Peninsula Field Naturalists

Art and Val Fleming Fund

Aviva

Northland Power

Ontario Power Generation

Small Scale Farms

Rice Road Greenhouse

Gauld Nurseries

Niagara Nurseries

Evergreen Acres Christmas Tree Farm

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world. Indeed
it is the only thing that ever has.*

MARGARET MEAD



— NIAGARA PENINSULA —
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

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