



MISSION TO SEAFARERS – HALIFAX

Flying Angel

Caring for seafarers around the world



FALL 2025

Everyone agrees the AVON VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB is our favorite golf course for this event. We are thrilled with the success again this year netting almost \$16,000. The man on the run in the photo to the right is Dieter Gautschi, teamed with Partner International Inc. Dieter donated his 50/50 winnings back to the Mission (\$590). This speaks volumes of the depth and breadth of community spirit we are blessed with. 29 community teams joined together to support MtS Halifax, sharing and caring in fun and camaraderie. Most inspiring! YOU are all ROCK STARS! THANK YOU. Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/199129224@N05/>



Bluewater Group – Lowest Scoring Team



Ship Happens – Most Honest Team



Clubhouse staff; Erika, Katelyn, Lydia, Alecia



Volunteers; Mike, Elaine, Mike



Elaine Selig with APA colleagues



Congratulations to:

Team with the Lowest Score:

Bluewater Group

Closest to the Hole (Men):

Derek Kostal

Closest to the Hole (Women):

Jennifer Holmes

Longest Drive (Women):

Michelle Megannety

Longest Drive (Men):

Gabe Hartlen

Most Honest Team:

Ship Happens

We thank volunteers Captain Jim Calvesbert, Captain Mike Montgomery, Mike Cudjoe and Elaine Selig for assisting and keeping the flow of the day smooth. **Congratulations to Elaine Selig on her retirement!**

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SERVING SEAFARERS WITH COMPASSION, FRIENDSHIP AND VITAL SUPPORT

Shore leave is necessary for physical, spiritual, and mental health! However, many seafarers are denied this fundamental right. Our staff and volunteers visit each vessel which comes to our port and advocate for shore leave as well as the basic human rights we all take for granted. Our team transports seafarers for provisions and to our haven – their “home away from home”. Pastoral care and emergency resources are available 24/7. We can assist with medical issues. We are here with smiles and listening ears. The MtS Halifax team are passionate about serving visiting seafarers.

The Captain and crew of the **CMA CGM ANDROMEDA** with volunteer Mike, were pleased with an extended shore leave. Crew members enjoyed a trip to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, MoneyMart, shopping for provisions and brewskies! YAY.... for shore leave.



The **TROPIC LISETTE** crew (below left) enjoyed down time in the Mission, reaching out to family members before heading south to Palm Springs. Lots of laughter and joy shared with our Ship Welfare Visitor Captain Peter Randall)



CMA CGM NORMA crew were delighted for shore leave and relaxation at the Mission after a month-long voyage from Colombo to Halifax. Their ship was then to sail to the USA, and a long trip to Europe. We do our best to serve seafarers who deliver all we need... 90 percent of everything we use.

Shore leave for seafarers is critical. The crew of the **VOLGA MAERSK** (right) spent their shore leave getting some fresh air in Point Pleasant Park with Ship Welfare Visitor John A., shopping at Value Village and borrowing a Mission bicycle to go for a ride. Blessings to seafarers who do so much for us ashore and get so little respect and recognition for it.



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Remember almost everything we touch, our clothes, our phones, our food, has crossed the oceans to reach us. Behind those journeys are seafarers... invisible lifelines of global trade, spending months away from home, often in isolation, facing storms, exhaustion, and uncertainty. We provide a sanctuary of warmth, laughter, connection, a place to find rest, respite and dignity. Please support us with a monetary donation and/or provide gently used clothing for our Free Room. Blessings in abundance to all.



Crew members from MV LARS D hamming it up in the Mission during shore leave while the ship was in the Port of Halifax. The importance of shore leave can be measured by the smiles on their faces!!

The **MSC SALINA III** spent an afternoon, evening and following morning in Halifax this past week. The galley staff were appreciative of the COBS bakery products they received. The crew had time to stop by the Mission and relax before going shopping. The opportunity to get ashore is never passed up by ships' crew.



After a week on anchorage at the Bedford Basin to avoid Hurricane Erin, the Captain and crew of the Tropic Hope take time off the ship and rest at the Mission before sailing to the U.S. and the Caribbean. The vessel is a regular visiting Halifax every two weeks.



Joseph Loot, MtS Halifax, responded immediately to a request for warm clothing from the crew of the CONTSHIP CUP. A bagful of sweaters and hoodies was delivered within the hour. With winter approaching, donations of warm clothing are much appreciated.

"Shore leave is not a luxury; it is a critical part of a good safety management plan. A burned-out crew is not a safe crew." — Ben Bailey (Maritime Safety Trends 2014-2024)

This quote really hits home. Millions of seafarers work in isolated, high-pressure environments to keep global trade moving, yet their wellbeing is often overlooked. Fatigue at sea is not just a personal struggle; it is a safety risk that affects everyone. Just as we prioritize rest, mental health, and human connection in any workplace onshore, the maritime industry must treat shore leave as essential, not optional. Caring for the people at the heart of operations is not only the right thing to do; it is smart, sustainable, and vital for safety. — Mike Cudjoe, NAMMA INTERN

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The oil/chemical tanker **Basat**, with 17 crew onboard, arrived in Halifax on May 12, 2025 to undergo engine repairs. Unexpectedly, the repairs extended to almost four months. The ship departed on September 5, 2025. During the ship's stay in the Ocean Terminal, which is just across the Mission Center, the Mission was the rallying point of the crew. Despite the cultural and language barrier, the Mission volunteers and staff assisted the crew in acquiring low-cost SIM cards and data plans and personal items from Walmart, Halifax Shopping Center, and Dartmouth Crossing. Notably, the Mission provided a place for the crew to relax after work and a designated address for couriers to deliver items the crew had purchased online.

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Upon the invitation of Fr. Sinclair Oubre, the onboard Chaplain and the Diocesan Director of the Stella Maris Ministry at Port Arthur, Texas, USA, our Ship Welfare Visitors, Deacon Art Mitchell and Joseph Loot, visited the **TS KENNEDY** where they chatted with crew and cadets, and were given a tour of the ship. Built in 1967 as the VELMA LYKES, the steam-powered TS KENNEDY is on her last cruise as a training ship. It will be laid up and replaced by the TS LONE STAR STATE by 2026. Our Deacon Art is the Stella Maris representative to the Mission to Seafarers Halifax. Blessings to all!

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MtS Halifax's Joseph Loot provided transport for the crew of the magenta **ONE MILLAU** to carry the food items they bought from Walmart and the wholesale store for additional provisions on board. From Halifax the ONE MILLAU is sailing on a long voyage to Singapore. Crew members visited our mission and went for a walkabout downtown.



Crew members of cruise ships which stop in Halifax go to the local Superstore to stock up on treats. These two crew from the MEIN SCHIFF were photographed by our Ship Welfare Visitor Jim and seem happy with their purchases! The young lady is from Bali and the young man from Jakarta.



APL ESPLANADE CREW



APL SENTOSA CREW



VOLENDAM CREW

SEAFARERS ARE NOT OUR ONLY VISITORS. WE ARE BLESSED BY COMMUNITY WHO CARE!

It is always a pleasure to welcome Sarah Edmonds of Edmonds Landscaping when she visits our Mission. She exudes light and goodness with a beautiful smile. I was humbled to accept a considerable donation to our Mission, again, in memory of her grandparents. Sarah's grandparents, Ernest and Marjorie, were volunteers at the Mission and gave generously of their time over four decades ago. Their spirit rests with us through the namesake "Ernest & Marjorie Edmonds Memorial Lounge". We thank Sarah and the Edmonds family for their generosity and their kindness shown to seafarers. Check out their website: [Welcome to Edmonds Halifax](#)



Emmerson Mazerolle was excited to visit friends Dianne, Bill and Rita on his annual pilgrimage to the Mission to Seafarers Halifax.

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Dr. Sue Mowat-Rodgeman visited the Mission to pick up September take-out BBQ lunches with her brother, Peter. The Mowat family have been on-going supporters of our events including the spring auction this year. We appreciate and thank them for their ongoing support and special thanks to Sue for her substantial donation. It was wonderful to see you Sue! Blessings.



Captain Shri Madiwal, Vice President Operations/Supply Chain, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority was in Halifax attending the 2025 Ports Canada Conference and we were honoured he had time to drop in to visit to our Mission. Having met Shri years ago at a conference in Vancouver, I was delighted to introduce him to volunteers Bill and Dianne. Captain Shri is supportive of our efforts, has over 30 years experience in the marine industry and is an active board member with the International Sailors Society of Canada, to whom we are grateful to for their on-going support.



Spotted at the Mission to Seafarers: Pennywise with local photographer Jenn Peake of Tailgate Photography.

Retired cruise ship Captain, David Box, dropped into the Mission last month on the way back to his hotel after a walk in Point Pleasant Park. David is from Wales and is currently visiting Halifax. Before his retirement, David worked with Carnival UK, P&O Cruises, Princess Ocean Voyages and P&O Australia. He expressed his amazement at the facilities and services that Mission to Seafarers Halifax provides to seafarers. As a retired seafarer, he is now financially contributing to seafarer welfare organizations in the UK. We thank retired Captain David for his support.



Esau Cassell, a past facilities volunteer, dropped into the mission one day while I was away. I recall first meeting this kind man, when I asked “how can I make the labor costs disappear?” Esau graciously stated, “I will come with a staff member and show your volunteers how to replace the mission floor”. So, he did. Esau also helped to tear down the old garden shed and rebuild the front stairs/ramp. Thanks for dropping in Esau.

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VOLUNTEERS, THE BACKBONE OF OUR MISSION

Training opportunities are abundant for Mission volunteers. Recently watchkeepers were mandated with successfully completing The Serve Right Responsible Beverage Program which has been designed to help servers and staff to succeed in a dynamic market. This program helps servers to better understand responsible beverage service procedures, facts and trends connected with alcohol sales, alcohol consumption, and the law. The Serve Right certificate is valid for 3-Years, from the date of completion. There are also significant courses available at [MARE Training](#) provided by NAMMA (North American Maritime Ministry Association). Women Ministering to Seafarers is a new course as well as Crisis Preparedness, ICMA (International Christian Maritime Association). The Ship Welfare Visitor Course, offered by the UK Merchant Navy Welfare Board, aims to provide training for ship welfare visitors, staff and volunteers who visit seafarers on board ships. The course covers a variety of important topics. We are grateful to our partners for their on-going support. If you are interested in finding out more, check us out at www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca.



Helen, Morgane, Glenn, Rev'ds Annette & Joshua

SAFETALK A workshop which equips people to be more alert to someone thinking of suicide and better able to connect them with further help was held for staff and volunteers. The workshop emphasizes the importance of recognizing the signs, communicating with the person considering suicide and getting help or resources for the person considering suicide. Seventeen participants received a certificate at the end of the course. SafeTALK is recognized by the Suicide Prevention Resource Centre (SPRC), as an accredited course. We welcomed SafeTALK trainer Rev'd Josh Messick who visited from Baltimore, Maryland, and to Rev'd Annette Hoare, Southwestern Ontario; Morgane Sheppard, St. John's, Nfld; Rev'd Eric Phinney and Rev'd Tony Dickinson, Saint John, NB, who were some of those who participated in the course.

RENOVATIONS AT MTS HALIFAX

Over the past summer renovations to our mission included new access doors, front stairs and a new larger wheelchair accessibility ramp. It was a labor of love by Norman Picton, Bud Streeter, Aurora & James Parsons and IN&O Contracting. Shown bottom right is Jim, Norman, Mike and Bud who moved the garden shed and laid a new foundation, whilst Aurora, Carol, Susan and Joy embellished the gardens in the side yard. Norman and Bud replaced the garbage bin in the parking lot area. We are grateful for an ITF Seafarers grant that was secured for us by Ben Bailey & Becci Wright at IHQ. Additional funding for the stairs at the side of our mission has been promised by the International Sailors Society of Canada. KUDOS TO ALL, who were involved with these renovations.



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PICTONS ON THE ROAD TO EUROPE

Earlier this year Mission volunteers Susan and Norman Picton took a cruise around Northern Europe and used the shore excursions to visit seafarers' welfare centres in their ports of call. In Honisvag, Norway they visited the Norway's Seaman's Mission and were hosted by volunteer Malfrid and met with some of the crewmembers from "their" cruise ship CELEBRITY APEX. Next came a visit to the beautiful Mission to Seafarers in Rotterdam to visit Mark. The Honisvag & Rotterdam missions are part of a worldwide network of sanctuaries of rest and recreation to seafarers.



Another successful fund-raising luncheon was held at our Mission in September. Our patrons enjoyed BBQ burgers, coleslaw and dessert. The lunches start at the BBQ where "Chef Norman" and his sidekick Mike cook the burgers. The burgers then pass to the kitchen for assembly by Aurora and Susan. Finally, on to the pick-up area where Joseph, Carol and John pack the lunches to our supporters. We thank our staff, volunteers and donors for making September's lunch a success. Blessings!



TWO INAUGURAL CEREMONIES IN SEPTEMBER

Where Port of Halifax management present a commemorative plaque to Captains during the onboard ceremony with distinguished guests in attendance offering a Maritime welcome



Brilliant Lady



Seven Seas Splendor

Heavenly Father,

In a world facing wars, disasters, sickness, and uncertainty, we ask for your comfort and guidance. Grant peace to nations in conflict, relief to those struck by calamities, and healing to the sick and weary. Strengthen leaders with wisdom, communities with unity, and every heart with hope. Help us to care for one another, to act with compassion, and to trust that even in these difficult times, Your light still shines. Amen.

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NAMMA INTERN, MIKE CUDJOE

Serving with Purpose: A Personal Reflection on My Internship

During my internship with Mission to Seafarers, I had the opportunity to engage in meaningful work that aligned with both my professional interests and personal values. The organization's deep commitment to supporting seafarers, not just as workers, but as individuals navigating complex emotional, physical, and spiritual challenges created a unique and enriching environment for learning and growth. Through advocacy, pastoral care, and practical assistance, Mission to Seafarers offers holistic support that truly makes a difference.

Throughout my placement, I was involved in ship visits. These were more than routine check-ins; they offered genuine moments of connection. I engaged with crew members onboard vessels, offered emotional support and checked on welfare needs, and helped distribute care packages and informational materials. I also participated in community engagement and events, supported fundraising efforts, and learned about maritime rights and advocacy work.

In addition, I assisted in case management and provided centre support. I helped create a warm and inclusive environment for seafarers and supported chaplains and staff in their work. These tasks allowed me to develop key skills such as communication, cultural sensitivity, and organizational planning. I also gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by seafarers and the importance of holistic support services.

One of the most impactful aspects of my internship was participating in ship visits, hearing seafarers' stories, collaborating with chaplains and volunteers. These experiences helped me better understand the maritime industry and reinforced the value of compassionate service.

The team at Mission to Seafarers was welcoming and supportive. They fostered a collaborative atmosphere that encouraged learning and reflection. Their guidance and mentorship were instrumental in helping me navigate my role and make the most of my time with the organization.

Overall, my internship was a rewarding experience. It enhanced my professional competencies and broadened my perspective on global humanitarian work. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to Mission to Seafarers and look forward to applying the insights I have gained in future roles.

Thank you.

Mike Runny Cudjoe

The Mission to Seafarers works worldwide in support of seafarers who have been mistreated or abandoned. Please keep the seafarers in your prayers.

Please Donate

Website: www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca

Mail: Mission to Seafarers Halifax
P.O. Box 27114, NS B3H 4M8

Drop in: 844 Marginal Road.

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JOSEPH LOOT

ASSISTANT MANAGER/SHIP WELFARE VISITOR

Joseph Loot joined the [Mission to Seafarers Halifax](#) in 2014 as a volunteer while conducting graduate research on the lives and labor of seafarers in the global shipping industry. His initial research examined [Tripartism](#) as a mechanism for implementing the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006. Through his volunteer work, Joseph's academic and professional interests deepened, focusing on the protection of seafarers' social and economic rights, the enforcement of international labor standards, and the empowerment of seafarers to exercise their legally guaranteed rights.

Joseph brings to the Mission a rare blend of academic expertise and practical experience vital to advancing seafarer welfare. His academic training from the University of the Philippines and Dalhousie University is in the disciplines of Political Science and Law. For nearly two decades, he taught undergraduate and graduate courses in law, public policy and politics at the University of the Philippines. His research has been supported by fellowships from the University of the Philippines, the ASEAN University Network, and the Sumitomo Foundation, allowing him to conduct extensive studies across East and Southeast Asia in areas such as alternative law enforcement, conflict management, and human rights law and politics. He has also contributed to several international development initiatives in these fields.

To Joseph, seafarers are "those invisible workers who sail the perilous seas in a secretive globalized industry." At the Mission, he encountered firsthand the complex realities of advocating for seafarers' rights—challenges he had once only analyzed in theory. Drawing on his academic background, he addresses real-world seafarers' concerns, including health protection, safe working conditions, and the exercise of legal rights. Committed to their well-being, he often extends his hours to keep the Mission center open during evenings and weekends, providing seafarers with a welcoming space to rest and connect with their families.

Joseph's dedication grew through his internship and subsequent employment with the Mission. As a [NAMMA \(North American Maritime Ministry Association\) Intern](#) in 2016, he attended the Annual Conference, where he deepened his understanding of personal "presence" in engaging with seafarers. Appointed [Assistant Manager](#) in January 2020, he has provided essential administrative support for the Mission's operations, overseeing services for seafarers, patrons, sponsors, and the wider community. In March 2025, he became a [Ship Welfare Visitor](#), enabling him to work more directly onboard with seafarers. In this capacity, he assists crew members with a wide range of issues, including recovery from distress at sea, injury claims, workplace discrimination, and access to religious services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Joseph continued to serve seafarers while strictly adhering to health protocols. He facilitated the delivery, at the base of ship gangways and at designated quarantine hotels, of groceries and essential items requested by seafarers, advocated for the enforcement of shore-leave rights in conjunction with local and federal health regulations, and coordinated access to vaccinations in local health centers.

Fluent in [Filipino](#)—the language spoken by over 500,000 Filipino seafarers worldwide—Joseph communicates effectively with one of the largest groups in the global maritime workforce. His Asian heritage further enhances his ability to connect with seafarers from the world's leading seafarer-supplying region. Above all, his unwavering commitment to seafarer welfare enables him to engage individuals of all nationalities with empathy, professionalism, and respect. We are truly blessed to have him on our team!



During a rare quiet moment at the Mission, our three multi-national superstars (Jack Hall, Joseph Loot and Mike Cudjoe) were relaxing and thinking about being movie stars. So how about NON-LETHAL WEAPON (credit to the Lethal Weapon series)? Our international heroes overcoming all challenges and obstacles in their drive to serve seafarers who come to Halifax!! A wonderful and talented cast. We are lucky to have them on board. Jack Hall, (far left) completed his summer student placement and his plans include joining the Navy. Mike Cudjoe, NAMMA INTERN has returned to his studies. Both continue to volunteer with us to assist seafarers who visit our beautiful Port of Halifax.

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SHOEBOX TIME IS ALMOST HERE!



We are grateful for our church and community partners who participate in this exceptional initiative. We accept donations in kind or in cash. We start accepting donations of shoebox items in October. We set up and begin the production process (sorting, stuffing, wrapping late November) with deliveries to seafarers starting December 1st. Our hope is to have all shoebox donations received by the middle of December. We currently have an exceptional team who coordinate this program with a view to quality check each box that is delivered. *(In past years we have been short of shampoo/body wash and shaving gel) hint hint!*



Aurora, Marianne, Nancy & Jenn



Susan Picton



Captain Jim Calvesbert & Joseph Loot

WHAT'S IN A SHOEBOX?

- Hat/toque
- Gloves/mitts
- Scarf or neck warmer
- Socks (1 pair)
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo or shower gel (350 – 375 ml)
- Shaving cream
- Soap (1 bar)
- Deodorant
- Lip Balm
- Razor blades
- Comb
- Pen or pencil
- Notebook
- Tissues (small package)
- Souvenir
- Christmas card
- Candies (wrapped, no chocolate)
- Playing cards

Anchored in Faith – Sailing in Hope

We walk alongside our seafaring friends offering meaningful conversations whilst learning how to best serve them.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FALL LUNCHEON THURSDAY OCTOBER 30TH



Roast Ham, Baked Potato
Baked beans & Dessert
\$17.50

Please Order By October 24th
picton902@gmail.com or 902-422-7790

- **November 8:** MtS Car Rally
– register by completing online form:
<https://forms.gle/M9U9KPLbzQ5qjTcK6>
- **November 27:** Take-out Christmas Luncheon sponsored by P & H Milling.
\$20.00 per meal
- **December 3:** Annual Christmas Luncheon at Kenneth Rowe Hall, Pier 21. Presenting Sponsor – Edmonds Landscape & Construction Services



**Check us out
at MtS Halifax.**

MtS Halifax VOLUNTEERS - TRULY THE BACKBONE TO OUR MISSION

John Attersley	Carolyn Graham	Captain Michael Montgomery	Caroline Scott
Bill Blackmore	Howard Gray	Deacon Art Mitchell	Bud Streeter
Captain Jim Calvesbert	Palma Heming	Captain James Parsons	Carol Streeter
Reverend Andrew Cooke	Jack Hall	Aurora Ulloa-Parsons	Captain Colm Stockdale
Mike Cudjoe	Rita Karsten	Susan Picton	Glenn Taylor
Nancy Eisener	James Kennedy	Norman Picton	Pat Thompson
Maxime Gauvin	Dianne Lavoie-MacDonald	Captain Andrew Powell	Trinity Gadway
Ryan Grant	Joy MacDonnell	Captain Peter Randall	

GRATEFUL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

100 Bluenosers Who Care	Edmonds Landscape & Construction Services	ITF Seafarer's Trust	Quay Marine Associates Inc
100 Women Who Care	Federal Fleet Services/ASTERIX	LeeWay Marine	RCR
AON	F. K. Warren Ltd.	Logistec Stevedoring	Sea1 Offshore
Associated Cargo Specialists	Flying Angel Fund	Maritime World Logistics	Stewart McKelvey
Atlantic Towing Ltd.	Freight Checkers Union 1341	Marriott Halifax Harbourfront	The Cathedral of All Saints
Atship Services Ltd.	Halifax Pilots Corporation Ltd	Metcalf & Company	The Company of Master Mariners
Atlantic Container Line	Halifax Port Authority	Mothers Union of NS & PEI	The Shipping Federation of Canada
Atlantic Pilotage Authority	Horizon Maritime Services	MtS Canada	TK Foundation
Blue Water Agencies Ltd.	ILA 269 Halifax Long	NAMMA	UNIFOR Marine Workers union
Canadian Steamship Lines	Shoreman's Association	NICOMIT	Vanco Farms Ltd.
Cobs Bread	Inchcape Shipping Services	Open Door Community Church	Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics
Colley Motorships Ltd.	International Sailors' Society of Canada	Partner International Inc.	ZIM Integrated Shipping Services
CN		PRAXES Medical Group	
		PSA HALIFAX	



MISSION TO SEAFARERS HALIFAX

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Website: www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca
Location: Opposite Pier 24, Ocean Terminals
We are open 9:30-5:30. LATER WHEN SHIPS ARE IN PORT. Closed Sundays.

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