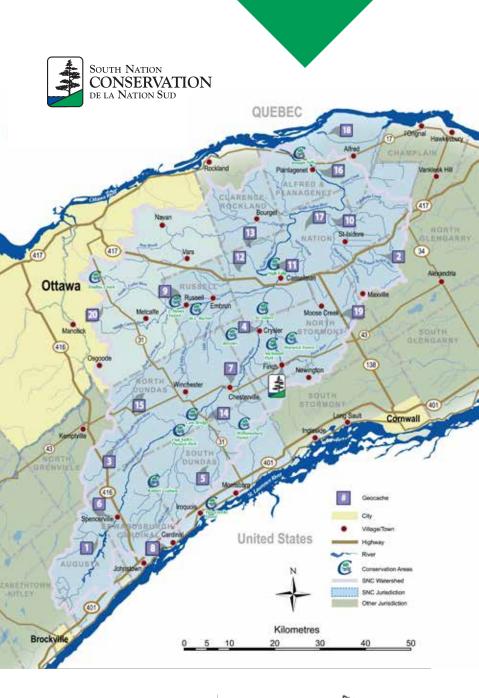
# HISTORICAL GEOPASSPORT TOUR

SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION



- Company and



GEOCACHING

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# WELCOME TO SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION'S HISTORICAL GEOCACHING TOUR

This passport guides users through a real-life adventure within South Nation Conservation's (SNC) jurisdiction in Eastern Ontario, featuring twenty geocaches that guide you through some of the history of the area.

The history of the South Nation River starts with the receding of the massive glacier that once covered most of what we now refer to as North America. As the ice melted it created a huge area of water known as the Champlain Sea. As the waters dispersed, many rivers, including the South Nation were all that remained. As the geography changed and the plants and trees grew, the River continued to provide vital nourishment to the area. Throughout the centuries, the natural resources of the watershed have attracted people to this part of eastern Canada. The First Nations were the first who settled the area to partake in the riches of the forests and streams and were followed by European settlers who carved out farms and villages and reaped the natural bounty of the watershed.

Today the South Nation River and its communities welcome today's "explorers" who come to learn about the rivers never ending contributions to our area of the world.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Register your free username at Geocaching.com
- 2. Print out a South Nation Conservation Historical Geo-Passport Answer Key
- Bring along a handheld GPS device or use a geocaching app on a smartphone
- Fill out the Historical Geo-Passport as you find hidden caches

### **PRIZES & RULES**

- Be sure to mark the code word in the Historical Geo-Passport
- If you find 15 of the 20 hidden caches, you are eligible to receive a South Nation Conservation geocoin. To claim your geocoin, please mail, fax, email or drop off the completed form to: 38 Victoria Street.
  P.O. Box 29 Finch, Ontario KOC 1K0

# DISCOVER ROEBUCK ABORIGINAL SITE



N 44° 48.573 | W 75° 35.860

CACHE 1

No part of the history of the South Nation River and its watershed would be complete without reference to the first human inhabitant. The most active indigenous areas date back to 1300-1500 and continued until the disappearance of the St. Lawrence Iroquois after Jacques Cartier's visit to Hochelaga (Montreal) in 1535.

The Iroquoian villages were comprised of longhouses and surrounding palisades with settlements ranging from the Trent River system to northeastern New Brunswick. The St. Lawrence River was home to many of these settlements.

This historical marker reminds us that approximately 500 years ago, an

Iroquois agricultural community was located in this area, a kilometre away from the current village of Roebuck.

According to the teachings of the Mohawk people, those who settled here took only what they needed and that Mother Earth would ensure that they had plants and wildlife to sustain them.

Today, South Nation Conservation works closely with our partners from the Mohawks of Akwesasne and other First Nation's communities, including the Algonquins of Ontario, to preserve and integrate traditional knowledge into the management of natural resources.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

SNC Fishway Project on Indian Creek

CODE WORD:

# DISCOVER Glengarry Pioneer Museum



Tucked away in the village of Dunvegan is the Glengarry Pioneer Museum, home to nine log buildings including the Star Inn from the 1860's. Open daily during the months of July and August, and weekends and holidays from Victoria Day to October.

Dunvegan was named after the town located on the isle of Skye (and location of Dunvegan Castle, home of the Clan McLeod), in Scotland. The area was originally settled in 1792, as part of the historic Glengarry County where many Scottish emigrants came from all over the Scottish Highlands due to the Highland Clearances. This first wave of heavy migration lasted till 1816, with emigration continuing into the early 20th century, at a slower pace. Many of these migrants came from the Inverness-shire area of Scotland.

Canadian Gaelic/Scottish Gaelic has been a spoken language in the area for over four centuries. Kenyon, which was part of Charlottenburgh Township until 1798, was named for British judge and politician Lloyd Kenyon, 1st Baron Kenyon.

Development in the region was significantly spurred by the establishment of a railway link between Ottawa and Montreal in the early 1880s. Maxville, Alexandria and Glen Robertson became key railway hubs for farmers in the area.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

The village of Maxville to the south, home of the Glengarry Highland Games

WORD:

### DISCOVER GRANT'S MILLS



CACHE 3

From 1800 to the 1890s, the village of Hyndman was called Grant's Mills. In 1800, Lewis Grant moved to Edwardsburgh Township to claim the land entitled to his father. Grant built a dam and then a grist mill on the South Nation River. It was the only mill of its kind at the time on the River between Montreal and Kingston. After Lewis Grant's death, his son Daniel sold the mill to Joseph Hyndman, who operated the mill until 1901. The name

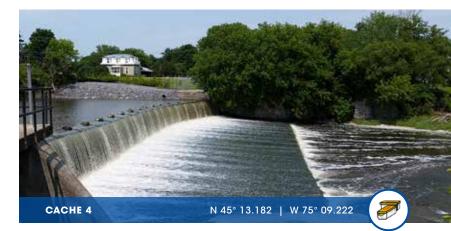
change of Grant's Mills occurred in the 1890s after postal service came to the community consisting of around 50 residents, according to the Dominion Directory. Mail arrived addressed to Hyndman, the name of the postmaster, and from then on the community became referred to as Hyndman. The only building still standing on Grant's property from the Grant's Mills period is a stone house built by Daniel Grant.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Robert Graham Conservation Area

### CODE WORD:

# DISCOVER CRYSLER



The village of Crysler is named after Col. John Crysler, renowned for his leadership during the battle of Crysler Farm in November 1813.

Like many others of German and English decent, the Cryslers moved north of the St. Lawrence River in 1776, following the American Revolutionary War, maintaining loyalty to the German-speaking King George III of England.

John Crysler, son of Johanned Krausler, emigrated to Canada at the age of sixteen and went into business; becoming wealthy by operating lumbering, milling and merchandising enterprises. He also became a large landowner, owning more than sixty thousand acres along the St. Lawrence River and further north, including the location of the current village of Crysler.

Married three times, father to 19 children, Crysler became an elected representative in 1808, serving on the fifth parliament of Upper Canada until 1824. In Williamsburg Township, he owned the land where the battle of Crysler's Farm was fought, where he served as Colonel of the militia.

This village, historically plagued by flooding, didn't implement flood control measures until much later in 1900, when the Crysler Dam was erected, later followed by a dyke in the mid 1980's, both owned and managed by South Nation Conservation.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Reveler Conservation Area, Warwick Forest Conservation Area, McIntosh Park Conservation Area

### CODE WORD:

# DISCOVER THE MCINTOSH APPLE



Many visitors and residents are surprised to learn that the tart and tasty McIntosh Apples were created in Dundela.

After moving to Upper Canada from New York State, John McIntosh (1777 – c.1845-46) and Hannah Doran were married in 1801 while farming along the St. Lawrence River. In 1811, the two exchanged their land with an in-law for a plot of land in Dundela. While clearing this overgrown plot, McIntosh discovered some wild apple seedlings that he transplanted next to his house. One seedling in particular grew into a tree, which bore particularly good fruit. Their grandchildren dubbed the fruit "Granny's Apple". By 1820, seedlings from the tree were being sold, but they did not produce the same quality of fruit. It was McIntosh's son, Allan (1815-1899) who learned the art of grafting and began cloning the tree with his brother, increasing production of the fruit. Earliest sales were in 1835 and, by 1836, the fruit was named the McIntosh Red. Entering into commercial production in 1870, the apple became popular after 1900. The original tree bore its last fruit in 1908 after being damaged by a house fire. Horticulturalists from Upper Canada Village saved cuttings from the last known first-generation McIntosh graft before it died in 2011.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Oak Valley Pioneer Park

CODE WORD:

# DISCOVER The spencerville mill



Perhaps one of the most galvanizing aspects of the history of the South Nation River was European settlers using the river to power mills; whether saw mills for building and trade, or grist mills saving long journeys to larger centers for food.

By 1812, Peleg Spencer had built a wooden dam on the South Nation River and constructed a sawmill on the south bank to serve the settlers in the backwoods of Edwardsburgh Township.

Over the years, fires gutted the building allowing different reconstruction projects to occur, just as swiftly as the ownership and partnerships of the mill changed hands. In 1912, J.F. Barnard purchased the mill and adjacent stone house for \$4,600. Under the trademark, Grow-or-Bust, he produced a line of balanced poultry and livestock feed. After his sons became involved, the mill received upgrades and expanded the business. With his grandchildren, he eventually added a hardware store in 1955. Ted Barnard continued to run the family business until it closed in 1972.

South Nation Conservation purchased the Mill in 1985 and transferred ownership to the newly created Eastern Valley Heritage Foundation. In 1999, this Foundation was renamed The Spencerville Mill Foundation and turned the Mill into a tourist destination.

POINTS OF INTEREST	COL
Mill Run Canoe Route	
	0

#### CODE WORD:

# DISCOVER CHESTERVILLE



Chesterville is among one of the most interesting settlements in SNC's jurisdiction, where the town and River have been intertwined since the first settlers arrived in 1817. The first settler was a United Empire Loyalist named George Hummel. He was given a large tract of land, the majority of which became Chesterville. He was joined in 1825 by two brothers, the Merklevs, who decided to build a sawmill near the Hummel home. Over the years the village has had a few names. Originally, Armstrong Mills, after Thomas Armstrong, and later Winchester. However, many neighbouring regions shared the same name,

such as North Winchester, South Winchester, Winchester Springs and West Winchester. Finally in 1875, locals changed the name of the village to Chesterville, honouring the first telegraph operator, Chester Casselman.

The town hall, built in 1867, also served as: a fire hall; a court house; a jail; a church; and a movie theatre throughout the years. Now it is a heritage centre.

Today the town is also home to the Chesterville Dam, an important water control structure on the South Nation River, built more recently in 1978.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Chesterville Heritage Centre, 14 Victoria Street CODE WORD:

# DISCOVER THE GALOP CANAL



Near the headwaters of the South Nation River lies the Galop Canal, the historic predecessor to the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Opened in 1846, the Galop Canal ran 12 kilometres from Iroquois to Cardinal. It allowed ships to bypass sets of rapids around Point Iroquois, Cardinal and Galop Island.

New locks were built along the canal in 1897 and the lock at Cardinal (lock 26) was 60 metres in length. Other parts of the canal became the longest locks of Canada at that time, reaching almost 243 metres. Use of the Galop Canal shifted in the 1950s when construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway began. The nature of life along the St. Lawrence banks began to change and newer, larger, locks were built to ship larger amounts of cargo from the Great Lakes.

In addition, new hydroelectric power stations were constructed and ultimately led to the flooding of 10 villages along the river and the relocation of others. The canal is also the final resting place of the iron clad wooden steam freighter, the Conestoga.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Geocache (GC2CXQN) Diver Down: The Wreck of the Conestoga The Port of Johnstown, 3035 Cty Rd 2, Johnstown, ON

CODE WORD:

### DISCOVER RUSSELL



The village of Russell, along the Castor River, grew into a prosperous town thanks to the New York Central Railway. With train stations in the surrounding towns like South Indian (today's Limoges), Osgoode and Morewood, the Township Council realized Russell needed a source of transportation to survive in 1884. By June of 1897, the Council passed a bylaw to raise \$10,000 to aid the Ontario Pacific Railway Company to build the new railway, on the condition that the railway company would have at least two passenger trains stop at each of the stations throughout the Township.

With the building of the station, Russell Village became the commercial centre for the Township; hotels filled with travellers, new shops opened, and loads of farm animals passed though the stockyards.

The survival of the Town during the Great Fire of 1915, was due to the Ottawa Fire Department's ability to run to the Town's aid on the railway, saving the village after twenty-five buildings were destroyed.

Around 1940, the passenger traffic diminished, leading to the passenger train service to Russell being abandoned in 1954, with the last train on the system running on February 14, 1957.

Today, one of the most notable landmarks in the village is the Russell Weir, constructed in 1967, downstream from the original 1916 dam site.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

J. Henry Tweed Conservation Area W.E. Burton Conservation Area CODE WORD:

### DISCOVER RICEVILLE



Riceville is a small hamlet located on a peculiar ridge, a few feet in height running west to east, in Nation Municipality. The town is divided by the Scotch River that runs from the south and joins the South Nation River to the north. Riceville is home to the Riceville Agricultural Fair, held around the third weekend in August and has been operating for over 145 years. The fair, like many others, highlights the agricultural industry of the area from the past, present, to future. The lay of the land is level and, in most parts, the soil is good, allowing many different types of crops to be grown throughout the region

In past years, considerable attention was given to hop-growing; however, due to present-day low prices of hops, a number of the farmers decided to abandon this industry. There are thirty hop-yards in the Nation municipality, raising annually one to six tons each, with the largest hop-field comprising 14 acres. There are also ten cheese factories throughout Nation, most recognizable being the St. Albert Cheese Co-Op.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Alfred Bog Walk, off Concession Rd. 11 CODE WORD:

i coord.info/GC64DGG

# DISCOVER CASSELMAN



Voyaging down the Petit-Nation River (today's South Nation River) in 1832, Martin Casselman decided that the area where the village of Casselman now stands would be the prime location for a town.

In 1843, Martin purchased 1,600 acres of land, covering both sides of the River, from the Jessups family and one year later, with the help of about 40 men, he constructed a dam and a sawmill. Casselman later spent \$40,000 to ensure the Canada-Atlantic railway would pass through Casselman, fostering the development of the village he founded. In 1876, construction of the first church began on land offered by Martin and, like many other villages of that time, the church became the heart of the community built around it. Before the church was ready, services were hosted in the upper floor of the General Store.

The Village suffered from two major fires, in 1891 and 1897, which eventually crippled the lumber industry. In both instances, the Village and churches were reduced to ashes, forcing many residents to flee to find work elsewhere. It was words of encouragement and leadership from the church that led to the rebuilding of the community through public donations.

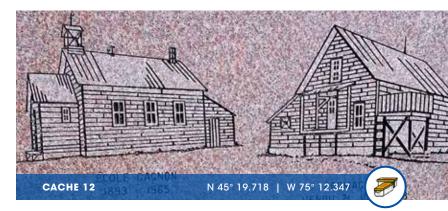
### POINTS OF INTEREST

High Falls Conservation Area St. Albert Conservation Area



CODE WORD:

# DISCOVER THE GHOST TOWNS



The lumber and rail industries are what drove families to move to towns such as Gagnon and Grant. Like most towns, Gagnon started with the establishment of a sawmill in 1890, built by Peter Kelty and Morris Shaver. Over time, the land was cleared and farming became viable. After the construction of a hotel, Gagnon boomed, building a school (1895), a general store (1903), a post office (1906), a butcher (1909) and, eventually a cheese factory (1922).

The first postmaster gave Gagnon its name until it closed in 1931, followed by the cheese factory (1948) and the school (1965). The town itself, although listed in italics on some Ontario maps, no longer exists.

Though the ending of Gagnon was a slow and subtle one, the demise of Grant is due in part to a bush clearing exercise gone wrong by a nearby railroad crew in 1897. Even though the same structures were found in this village, the sandy soil was not suitable for agriculture, turning the town into a dust bowl by the 1920s. The remaining structures of Grant are found within the Larose Forest after the area was procured following the desertion.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Limoges Floating Wetland Demonstrate Site, 29 South Indian Drive, Limoges

# DISCOVER THE LAROSE FOREST



In the 1800's, the early European settlers made logging a lucrative trade with markets in growing Canadian cities with a steady export to Europe. Forests quickly fell to the saw and the axe, cleared land was farmed and life was grand. However, without the protection of the trees, the clear cut farmland lost its thin layer of topsoil to the combined erosion of wind and water.

In the late 1930's, an Ontario Department of Agriculture employee, Ferdinand Larose, had the vision and dedication to solve this problem. Larose and his team started a tree plantation that today stands as the second largest plantation forest in Southern Ontario. The land was bought by the County from private landowners and manually replanted. Red Pine was the first species to be planted, followed by White Pine and White Spruce, and later earlysuccessional deciduous species such as birch or poplar. At the peak of replanting efforts in the 1940s and 1950s, some one million trees a year were being planted.

From the outset, the forest was intended to be a harvested resource, and a multi-use public land. Today, South Nation Conservation assists the Counties with the management of the forest.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Lemieux Ghost Town and Landslide Site, Lemieux Cemetery, Cty Rd. 16

# DISCOVER WINCHESTER SPRINGS



The karstic features of the geology throughout the South Nation Watershed are the result of layers of limestone formed millions of years ago by the Champlain Sea creating numerous springs throughout the region.

Historically, these springs drew in residents and visitors to the area to enjoy the waters, aiding in their wellbeing. The development and establishment of spas was the areas first form of tourism. Carlsbad Springs, Caledonia Springs and, of course, Winchester Springs were retreat destinations for clients far and wide. An advertisement of the day for The Winchester Springs heralded: "The waters of these Springs are unsurpassed in all of North America, and from the wide reputation they now have, it will be needless to extol them further."

Having a railway line nearby added to the success these Health Spas shared until they started to fade from favour in the post-depression era. The last of the grand hotels at Carlsbad Springs closed in the late 1960's.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Cass Bridge Conservation Area

CODE WORD:

# DISCOVER MOUNTAIN **PROVINCIAL WILDLIFE AREA**



Mountain Provincial Wildlife Area, found near the village of Mountain, is owned and managed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

This provincial wildlife area, obtained from the federal government in 1962, is situated in the former Winchester Bog, a 2,000 hectare wetland that once supported extensive bog vegetation. Due to past drainage efforts, the area is now mostly a poplar and willow-alder shrub swamp. While there are no formal walking trails, the wildlife area can be accessed by paths that follow these ditches. Some artificial ponds have been created to support frogs and Midland Painted Turtles. The usual birds of wooded wetlands, such as American Woodcock, Swamp Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow Warbler, can be seen along with a large population of Wood Frogs.

MNRF is responsible for provincial parks, forests, fisheries, wildlife, mineral aggregates and the Crown lands and waters that make up 87 per cent of Ontario. Originally the Department of Crown Lands (1867-1905), with changes throughout the years with groupings of departments for lands, forests and mines. The Ministry of Natural Resources was then formed in 1972. with an addition of the word Forestry to the name, in 2014. This agency also administers the legislation for the Conservation Authorities Act.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Ferguson Forest Centre, Kemptville

CODE	WORD:
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# DISCOVER THE PLANTAGENET "PITCH OFF"



In 1869, before the establishment of the South Nation River Conservation Authority, a report from the Commissioner of Public Works for the Province of Ontario highlighted many concerns of flooding and damage stemming from the, then called South Petite Nation River. The report cited municipal councils as frequent petitioners for "surveys to be made, to devise plans for lessening the evils caused by these periodical inundations."

The first serious obstruction was found at the Plantagenet Springs. This "pitch off" is a ledge of flat limestone rock extending across the River with a dip upstream, forming a natural dam which raises the water higher than it would be if the ledge were removed. At this place during the spring freshets, the rocks cause the accumulation of logs and driftwood, increasing the effect of the natural barrier. The water would then be dammed upstream to such an extent as to overflow and cause much damage to the level fertile lands on either side of the river as far as Moose Creek.

A visit here clearly demonstrates the rectification project undertaken by SNC in 1980 where serious excavation occurred in order to create the weir in place today.

POINTS OF INTEREST	CODE WORD:
Jessups Falls Conservation Area	
	i coord.info/GC64DGE

### DISCOVER NATURAL DISASTERS



It was the effort of communities to control flooding that lead to the creation of the South Nation River Conservation Authority in 1947. However, in addition to floods, this area has also been hit with earthquakes, landslides, tornados, and ice storms.

The Ice Storm of 1998 wasn't the only storm of that type to hit the area. Another storm hit in 1942, but had less of an impact because residents were still using wood or coal for heat and oil lamps at the time.

Not so in 1998; when ice destroyed power and communication grids throughout Eastern Ontario and Southwestern Quebec. The people with "old" technologies fared better than those who scrambled for generators to keep from freezing in the dark.

The 1998 storm also devastated numerous tree plantations. These trees required extensive remedial work. When thousands of broken branches and tree limbs fell into streams and rivers, water flow was also blocked, exaggerating spring flooding.

This geocache is placed to demonstrate the difference between two wooded areas. See if you can determine which benefited from the intervention of the SNC forestry technicians and their science, and which still struggles many years later.



# DISCOVER LAC GEORGES



In 2015, South Nation Conservation (SNC), at the request of the Township of Alfred and Plantagenet expanded its jurisdiction to include all of the Township's territory. This was the fourth expansion of this type for SNC. The expansion allows SNC to provide important services and programs to the entire municipality and its residents. This particular expansion included the territory containing Lac Georges, making it the first and only lake within SNC's jurisdiction. It is also almost exclusively privately owned by cottagers who enjoy their peace and tranquility.

This geocache is located near a bridge that passes over the southern tip of the lake and provides a view which can be spectacular throughout the year.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Atocas Bay, Alfred Lagoons (Birdwatching Area)

# DISCOVER MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION



"Sap's running, dad". These words have echoed down through the years to herald the coming of spring, maple syrup season and all of the activities that are part of the sugar camp experience. Before the arrival of the European settlers, the First Nations had discovered maple syrup, the 'sinzibuckwud' (Algonquin word meaning 'drawn from trees').

From birch bark buckets used by the First Nation's people, to the boiling of sap in large iron kettles by the early pioneers and the modern present-day evaporator, producing maple syrup remains North America's sweetest gift to the world. It's a natural product without preservatives or additives. Presently, most maple producers collect the maple sap through a plastic pipeline vacuum system, allowing for more, cleaner, sap to be collected; producing a higher quality of maple syrup which is required to make maple products such as butter, taffy and candy.

Every spring, SNC invites school groups to tap into their Maple Syrup Education Program. SNC partners with Sand Road Maple Farm to guide participants through a hands-on discovery; learning about the process of maple syrup production.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Sand Road Maple Farm, 17190 Sand Rd



CODE WORD:

# DISCOVER Shields Creek



Cool and cold water streams are usually fed by ground water, with an upper temperature limit of 26°C. One of these rare streams, Shields Creek, is located within the village of Greely and is part of the Castor River Subwatershed. The Castor River, named for the many beavers that were found in the area, feeds into the South Nation River.

A concerted effort with local residents, the City of Ottawa, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and SNC involves habitat restoration, monitoring, trout stocking, and riparian protection for this area, dating back to the early 1990's. The work which occurred in this City of Ottawa Park was completed solely with volunteers and donated materials and is still ongoing today.

SNC's Stream Watch Program trains and equips local volunteers to work with staff to monitor river health and complete habitat restoration projects. This data is compiled with additional water, fisheries and forestry data throughout the jurisdiction, helping to produce science-based reports in order to better understand the resources that we have while working with partners to conserve, restore, and manage these resources.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Findlay Creek Boardwalk, Leitrim Wetland

CODE	WORD:
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i coord.info/GC64DGX



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