

My year in Canada!

I left in Estonia on August 5th. I remember when I was at the airport I didn't realize that I'm going to Canada. Everyone were crying and I was like don't worry I will be back soon! I hugged everyone and then I walked through the gates. I didnt believe its really happening. Then I met another exchange students, they were going to Florida and Texas. Then we went to the plain, it took 20 minytes and we were in Finland. There we met another exchange students and we started to go to New York. In New York we were 3 days. They talked about the rules and we went to see Spiderman Musical which was amaizing.

(2nd slide) I arrived in Canada on August 8th. I remember I scared a lot. I had a problem with my visa and I had to wait and talk with a guy about it, I was so scared because my English wasn't that good and I didn't know what to I have to do. But the guy was very friendly and he helped me. My visa was late because we had a protest in Estonia. After 30 minutes was everything good and they let me go.

When I came down to the stairs then Yvonne were the first one who came and hugged me. I remember I cried and I said sorry, I felt so bad they had to wait and they didn't know anything what was happening. Then everyone hugged me and took pictures and then I went with Ruth to my first home.

(3rd slide)When I started to open my luggage then I just lied down on my bed and I told to myself "I did it, I'm here, I'm really here, I can't believe it" I wasn't sad and I didn't miss home, I was happy and curios about everything. Same day we went to Tracy's birthday dinner. I was so scared and I didn't know what do talk, they asked so many questions and some moment it was so awkward because I didn't know what to respond. .

(4th slide) Ruth and Ormand took me different places and it was always fun!

(5th slide) It was my first time when I ate lobsters. And I liked it.

I lived with Ruth and Ormand almost a month. End of August I moved to Sandra's and Barry's. I lived with them a week. They were and are still very nice! And I was glad to live with them.

On August 31st I moved to Linda's. Everything went so fast because next day I had to go to school.

(slide 6)I remember my first day at school was so scary, my heart (peat so fast) and everywhere were so many people and I didn't know anybody- except Karlee. School was so big and I didn't know where I have to go. First class was drama. (Slide7) I remember Karlee told to a guy to tell the teacher that I am the exchange student, but the guy didn't tell anything, he was so shy. Then I went to the teacher and I introduced myself. This class was always so much fun and there I met so many amazing people. I remember when I asked to Sam to have a lunch with me and when we went to lunch it was so awkward because we didn't know what to talk. But because we were always together in drama class then it wasn't so awkward anymore. (Slide8) Then she invited me to have lunch with her friends and it was really fun! Then I felt like I found my friends here.

(slide9) Next class I had cosmopolitan, I can't never be hairdresser or make up artist, It was fun class but yeah I even couldn't curl my own hair, at least now I know how to dye other peoples hair.

(slide10) Then I had earth science- I loved this class, the teacher was always so friendly and there was always so much fun. I think I was one of her favorite student, because she was so impressed about

my exchange and she was so interested about my country. (slide11) And my last class I had dance- the class wasn't my favorite but we had fun times there.

In September we had our first Rotary meeting with other exchange students. (Slide12) We slept in tents. The day we went for a hike and in the evening we had a campfire. We had a good time together. We became very close with each other.

Week after I went with Ave to the camp. (Slide13) There were a lot young people. We played volleyball in the rain. We played games. We ride a canoe. It was fun weekend. I remember when I had to stand up and talk what I learned in this camp I started to cry, I was so scared and I didn't know what to say. I was so mad to myself, because I cried. But later when I talked with Ave about that I felt better. It was sad to leave and go back home because we become very close.

I was with Ruth and Ormand on the Thanksgiving, we went to Ruth sister's cottage. (Slide14) The nature there is so very beautiful. I really loved this place. There were their cousins and they were so friendly. I talked about my year and about Estonia. In the evening we had a campfire. We don't have Thanksgiving In Estonia. And it is so nice how family come together and celebrate it.

(Slide 15) Next meeting with exchange students were District conference in Waterloo. We met with Canada prime minister – very friendly man and we talked about our country issues. Later we all sat down with exchange students and just talked. It was very good, because we learned to know each other more and more. We became closer and I felt like I have a big family.

Halloween is big celebration here. (slide16) In Estonia we have Halloween day but we don't go to doors to doors. I went with Savannah, Steph and Sam to trick or treating and we got lots of candies. It was so funny. The houses were so cool decoration and I don't understand why we don't do that in Estonia. Later I made with Linda and Karlee my first pumpkin head. It was pretty easy and I like how people doing it every year, doesn't matter how old are you, this is tradition.

Next meeting with other exchange students was Christmas parade. We got Christmas tree costumes and then we ran at the parade. We went to the children and gave them high five. It was so cool. I started to cry because I was so happy. Everyone were so happy. The parade was long and the time when we finished we were so tired.

Then came the time when I had to move back to Ruth and Ormands. It was very sad to move, not because I don't like Ormand but because the three months are actually long time to get close with each other. (Slide18) I liked to live with Linda and Karlee. Karlee thought me so much, about the rules and how I should talk with people, like Estonian people are very polite but Canadian people are more polite, and it is different being polite in English, but I learned a lot about that. She was always there for me, it was good because she knew what I felt, because she was an exchange student in Japan last year. I remember how we sit down with Linda and we talked a lot, about everything, actually firstly it was scary because she is the Rotary Club president but little bit later it was normal already. It was like mom and daughter who are talking about everything. I felt so good, because I knew I can trust her.

Then came the Christmas time, I went to Yvonne's house and she helped me to make chocolate slayed. (Slide19) It was so easy to make and we had lots of fun. All these slays I gave to my hostparents and to my friends.

Christmas day was very busy.(Slide 20) I woke up early morning to open my gifts. I got lots of gifts. Then we went to Ruth mom's house where we had a breakfast. Later we came home to make Christmas dinner. Christmas time was very nice, it is almost same like at home. The food is almost same, there was blood buddies, what I missed, because we are eating this every Christmas. But here we don't have it.

Yeah the winter was very cold and sad, because the ice storm. The trees were broken and we didn't have a power 14 hours I think. But some houses weren't like 4 days.

After Christmas time I went with Linda, Karlee, Kendra and Kelly to the Blue mountain. (Slide21)We stayed at little hostel and on the day we were on the mountain. These mountains here are way bigger than Estonian ones. I didn't remember how to snowboard because last year I just learned. But they helped me a lot and before when we came back I was pretty good- I think.

We went to the another mountain there, which was way bigger and it was connected to the mountain which is not good for beginners. I scared a lot because it was very high and deep for me. But I did it and I was so happy. The weekend was awesome and I really liked it.

Wanakita Camp. It was one the most favorite weekend. (Slide 22) There I met other students, who are going to exchange. In the bus we become very close. And we had so much fun. When we arrived they put us to sleep in cabins. Later we went to build igloo, so much snow and so much fun. We did it like 4 hours then we went to eat dinner and later everyone had to talk little bit about their country. Next day we finished igloo. Half of us slept in igloo, including me. Before that we went to the forest and we had to write a letter to myself. It was little bit scary, because it was dark, it was good that we weren't far from each other. Sleeping in igloo was really cold. But I didn't want to go back to cabin. I'm really glad I did it, because so many Canadian people haven't done it, and after that I felt like I'm Canadian.

Wanakita camp was very fun and going back home was hard.

(Slide23)At school I joined with school play. I didn't have big part. I was mostly like background player. But we did very good job, everyone liked it.

March break-(Slide24) I went with Yvonne and Don to the Lancaster for a week. There were so many old houses, and the place there was very old. We went to shopping were I found my prom dress. I was so happy do find it. We went to see wolfs, it was so interesting to listen about them, and I know that in the future I want to volunteer and help them. We had little accident, we lost Yvonne's valet, but at least we found it, it was in the restaurant. We went to make chocolate bar and to see how they make chocolate. Next day we went to see Moses, It was amazing, I haven't seen anything like that. There were real animals and the show was so powerful, I don't know how to explain it but it was something that everyone should see. Then we went to New York City. And we went to Empire State building. Yvonne scared but she was so brave and she came up with us. Then we went to shopping and just walked around. And the next day we came back. The March break was awesome, we had good time and I enjoyed it a lot.

Then came the time when I had to pack my stuff and move to Carleighs. It was sad to move, because I became very close with Yvonne and Don. They are my grandparents like they told me. And it is true. At home I don't have grandparents anymore and it was so good to feel that here I have, I'm so thankful for everything what they did for me.

I didn't live a long time with Carleigh family, but the time when I was there it was awesome.

(Slide25) I had a little brother, and we had always fun. We played songs together, he played on piano and I played on guitar. And I had a sister, who always helped me to choose what I should wear next day at school. We borrowed each other stuff. In Estonia I can't do that. I felt like I have a big sister here, even though I'm older. Shannon and Mark were always so nice to me and they tried to do everything to me to feel it like home. I went with Mark, Cam and them Cousin George to the Megan's walk. It was amazing what they are doing. After walk usually people hugs the hospital but we had to leave and we couldn't do that. But the time with them was awesome.

After 3 weeks I moved back to Ormand's. Then came the Prom.(slide26) Prom was awesome, I didn't expect anything because I didn't know what to expect. I went to mall and got my hair done, then Cat did my make-up and then I dressed up. My prom date- Dylan and Carleigh and her Prom date Robbie came to our house and we did pictures. Then we went to Kevin's house were we did lots of pictures. 2 hours later came party bus and we went to the Prom. Everyone was so beautiful. The food was excellent. We danced a lot and my feet were hurting so much. After prom I went home to change my clothes and then I went to the after prom party. There we had so much fun. I talked so many people with who I have never talked.

I moved to Ave's for a week, because Ruth and Ormand had to go away. (Slide27)I had very great time with Ave and Barry. Even though Barry and I fought over the chair all the time. I think something is wrong with me, because at Ormand's I fought with him as well.

(Slide28)Every family is different, how they live, how big are they, their rules, traditions. But there was one thing which was the same, they all gave me home, they made me feel like I'm at home. It was very important to me. I become very close with each person in the family. And that made hard to move to different houses.

I had amazing mom's, with who I felt like I can talk about everything. I sat down at nights and talked, we did movie nights. I had dad's, with them I always felt like they are protecting me and I felt I'm safe. I had amazing grandparents. It was so nice to feel I have them again. I had sisters and brothers. Hearing how they told me I'm their Sis made my day. They thought me so much, helped me when I had some problems or when I felt sad or when I just wanted to talk with someone. I knew that I can trust them and they are always here with me.

I met so many amazing people all over the world.(Slide29) I become very close with all exchange students. We are one big family. It is so nice to see how we all have been growing up together. We have had good and bad times together and helped each other always when someone needs it.

I found amazing friends.(slide30) Friends who are very important to me! (With who I feel I act myself)?? , doesn't matter how crazy I am , they don't care. They always told me what is wrong what is right. They were always there for me! They always understood me, even if I didn't make sense at all. They corrected my sentences and it helped a lot.

(Slide 31)I think I have the best club, everyone is so friendly, everyone is ready to help me if I need it. Every morning when I come here they wanted to talk with me and I always felt I'm welcome here.

It is so hard to explain how thankful I am. I'm so grateful to my friend who helped me to come here, because of her aunt I'm here. I'm so thankful for my Estonian Rotary club. They did so much for me. And I'm very thankful for Canadian Rotary club who agreed to take me here. You all gave me the

opportunity to come here and meet with all these amazing people, to see the amazing country. I know it was scary to take me here, because I'm too old, but Canadian people are very friendly. I really hope you all don't regret to take me here.

(This year gave me so much to think about everything. I grew up. I feel I'm not the little girl Liisu who came here and was so scared. When I came here I introduced myself Anna, because I felt it is more easier, but now I know that I changed it because I wanted to grow up. And I did it. I'm not scared anymore. I came here where I didn't know anyone and I didn't speak English very well, but now I'm here, ready to go back. And I'm not so scared about my future, because now I know I can do what I want, I'm more confident and I know when is my turn to speak. I feel I'm better person than before. And thank you for that!

Thank you for everyone, It is so hard to believe it's almost over and I really have to go back home. It's hard, because this place here is already my home. Every single person made my year amazing. I don't know when I'm coming back but one day I'll! You all are very welcome to visit Estonia and I really hope we keep touch and we will see one day again. And that's because I won't say goodbye because I know we will meet again!

It is so hard to say what I want to say and that's because I decided to sing a song. I'm really sorry if it doesn't sound good because I need more practise but I really want to give the message for you!