

Alyssa Cormier

2015-16 Rotary Youth Exchange Student

Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise

Host Club: Rotary Club de Waterloo, Belgium

Alyssa Cormier is a 2015 graduate from Kelowna Secondary School. She is the daughter of Rob Cormier and Martha and Maro Kennedy of Kelowna.

Alyssa departed for Belgium on August 19th and will continue her RYE experience until late July of 2016.

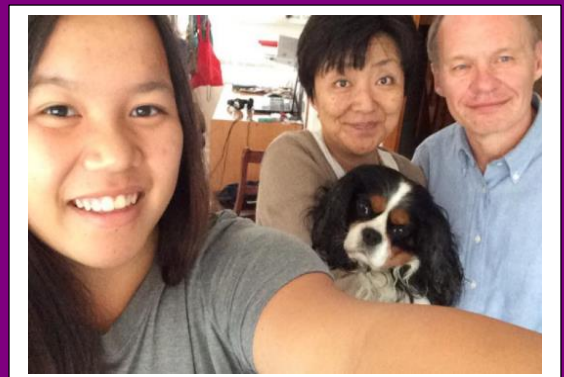
Ever since Alyssa can remember, she has been actively engaged in many challenging and exciting activities and adventures. As early as when she was six years of age, she was introduced to dance, and throughout the years she became proficient in many forms of dance, including modern, ballet and jazz. Her interest in the arts also gave her a great deal of pleasure in music and photography. She enjoys listening to many different genres of music and particularly loves attending live concerts. Her passion for photography focuses to a large extent on the people that are a part of her life and on the scenery that abounds her at home, while on vacation and now on her exciting RYE experience.

Alyssa has always achieved academically at her school studies. This was evident when she received an award for her excellent work ethic while attending high school. As a high school student, Alyssa also participated at a Canadian Student Leadership Conference in Ottawa in September of 2014. As a leader, she dedicated her time in preparing for the event and provided leadership during the week long conference to approximately 200 Students.

The Rotary Club de Waterloo.....

The Rotary Club de Waterloo was founded in January 1971. At the present time, under the leadership of Paul Joseph, the club's 2015-16 president, the membership of the club includes 20 active Rotarians. The Rotary Youth Exchange program is a major focus of the club. In 2015-2016, the club is hosting four RYE students, including students from India, Spain, and Ecuador, and of course Alyssa from Canada. Just since 2007-08, the club has hosted 20 students, including the four they are hosting this year.

Alyssa's first host family includes a mother who works as a journalist for a Japanese newspaper and a father who is an engineer in his own business. They have an 18 year old daughter who is presently in Mexico on a RYE experience and Oreo, a cute dog that Alyssa enjoys. Alyssa will be hosted by two other families before her experience comes to an end.



Institute des Sacré-coeurs de Waterloo.....

Alyssa attends a small Catholic school consisting of approximately 500 students, where she has been placed in the Education section which results in all of her classes being related to school/ assistant professions. There are 16 students in her class and all of these students stay in the same class room with the different teachers teaching from her classroom.

The school is a technical school, more hands on, less academic and more focused on teaching the students useful skills for real life situations. During the month of February, Alyssa will be completing an internship within a number of handicap homes and schools.



Waterloo, Belgium.....

Waterloo, a French community, is situated in the province of Walloon Brabant, within the arrondissement of Nivelles, just 13 kms south of Brussels. The population is approximately 30,000 situated within a municipality that is 21 sq. kms in size.



Waterloo is home of SigMount of Waterloo, a memorial in the form of a lion on a hill, with 226 stairs, also called the Lion's Mound. It was erected on the famous 1815 battlefield located South of Waterloo, and was completed in 1826. It has become a major tourist attraction in the region.





Alyssa shares several photos of her new friends.....



Alyssa shares some of her experiences thorough her photos.....



Canadians at Belgium Parliament



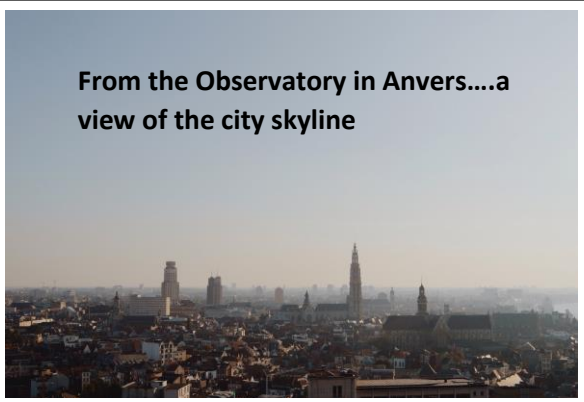
Canadian RYE Students in Belgium



A walk in a French Country-side



The Streets of Anvers, one of the largest cities in Belgium



From the Observatory in Anvers....a view of the city skyline



The Belgium country-side near Waterloo



New born pup, observed while on short internship visit to a veterinarian clinic in France



More of the country-side near Waterloo