

# Chiara Annina Kohlhofer

## 2017-18 Rotary Youth Exchange Student

Chiara's Rotary Youth Exchange adventure began on August 29<sup>th</sup>. She was greeted and welcomed at the Kelowna Airport by a host of Kelowna Sunrise Rotarians, their partners and friends of the club.

Chiara's home is located in Ried im Innkreis in the province of Oberosterreich in Austria, a small city of 11,600 citizens.



Chiara is the only child of Tamara Kohlhofer, a psychologist, and Herbert Dutter-Hohlfoer, a social worker.



Host families include Maribeth and Gord Friesen, Colleen and Chuck McEwan and Sue and John McIntyre.

Chiara recently completed her grade 10 at HAK RIED, a commercial college for students between the ages of 14 and 19 which leads to a VET Diploma (Matura) upon graduation. Classes for Chiara commence at 7:30 am and end at 1:05 pm.

She is now attending Kelowna Secondary School in a grade 11 program. Chiara enjoys most of her classes, especially drama, where she first started making friends.

When not attending classes, Chiara prefers to participate in judo, something she has been doing since first grade. She enjoys reading, hanging out with friends and listening to music.





Ried is a city full of contrasts: tradition and modernity, solidity and innovative spirit make the 11,000-inhabitant city in the heart of the Innviertel an exciting place full of surprising moments. Lively squares and well-filled inns bear witness to a sociable crowd. Art and culture have a high priority in Ried, as the well-known sculptural dynasty of the Schwanthaler had appreciated.



The Rotary Club of Ried im Innkriess in District 1920, a club with a membership of 62, sponsored Chiara.

Chiara was excited to be sponsored by the local club as she is very interested in different cultures. She expresses that the Rotary Youth Exchange isn't only about the language. "It is also about the culture and about making international connections - that's why I wanted to experience the exchange year."

Chiara chose Canada as her host country because she wanted to spend her exchange in an (mostly) English speaking country. "Besides the beautiful countryside, I also wanted to go to Canada because of the similar weather compared to my home country," she stated.

Now that she is here, she expresses that "she loves the view of the lake I have every morning when I wake up - Kelowna has this magic that makes me smile and dance all day long." She finds Kelowna to be a beautiful city to live in, with kind and friendly Canadians, the busy traffic and the most amazing sunsets she has ever seen.