



Asia

from

Burlington and Burlington Lakeshore

to

Germany

“bis zum Nächsten Mal”

In just over a month, I will have spent three hundred days in this country that I can now proudly call my second home – thanks to all the friends and family that I’ve met here. I’m living by my second and last host family now and already in the short weeks that I’ve been with them they’ve introduced me to many new and interesting German traditions and quirks. I find it good to switch host families, so I can always experience a different view and way of living in Germany.



After Christmas, in February, the other exchange students and I went on the Ski tour in Austria. It was great to finally learn how to ski, but of course a lot of the group found it funny that a Canadian didn’t know how to before. It doesn’t matter though; saying that I learned how to ski in Austria is definitely a cool story. We all had a blast and it was an exciting week filled with funny falls, wild experiences and gorgeous views.

This spring I embarked on the last and biggest tour with my family of exchangers, through Europe and its most famous cities. Late March we left Germany to head towards Prague. Next was a stop in Budapest and then we spent a week in Italy, seeing big cities like Rome and Venice. Next came Barcelona, some time in Paris and finally, our last stop, Belgium. The trip lasted a little over three weeks, and some days were possibly some of the most exciting ones of my life so far.



My favourite cities had to be Budapest and Barcelona. The weather was so nice and the cities were each uniquely beautiful, not to mention the sunny day on Sitges Beach in Spain. But of course, being surrounded the whole time by my funny,

awesome international family was what made the weeks so special. And in spite of knowing that it would be our last tour together we all had so much fun.

In May, I had the opportunity to fly to Essex, a city near London, England, with my Rotary club. There, my club, an English club, and a club from the Netherlands all held their annual partner clubs meeting. We spent an evening having dinner on a boat touring through London on the Thames, and that was probably my one of my favourite parts. The weather was surprisingly good but the views were absolutely breathtaking. During this weekend, I learnt a lot of new things and spoke with so many interesting people. I was welcomed into a host family for the time and they were incredibly kind. With the Rotarians from the other clubs I had many eye-opening and inspirational conversations. Wearing my Rotary blazer all covered in pins and memories, and seeing how many people came up and interacted with me, really showed me how meaningful Rotary Youth Exchange is.



Knowing that my flight back is coming ever faster and closer, I've been trying even harder to make the most of the time I have left. I'm spending as much of my free time out and about with my friends and family as I can. There seems to be so much more things to do and places I have yet to discover. So despite being here since August, sometimes all I want to do is stay here for another year. This exchange has been so indescribably amazing with all the new experiences, knowledge and people its introduced into my life. I know for sure that despite how far apart I may grow with people and how long ago it may seem, I will never forget the memories I've made here.

Dankeschön,

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