



Cameron

from

Milton

to

Switzerland

“..a chance to make the best of every last minute..”

Wow, so this is my last report. It feels surreal to be sitting here and writing the last words of my exchange. This isn't the end, but rather a chance to make the best of every last minute. These last few weeks have been crazy, as I have been trying to fit everything in that I want to do, before I leave this amazing place. Because of that, my weekends until the end of my exchange are almost all booked. I feel like I'm on such a tight schedule now, but I'm okay with that. It's an indescribable feeling I have right now, as I now am starting to come to terms with coming home. I feel both happy and sad, as I am leaving some of my best friends and family, to come home to my best friends and family. I have built a second life here, and it almost feels like I have to choose one over another. That being said, it's not necessarily a bad thing. I will come home to the life I left, which wasn't easy to do at the time. However, I have come to realize that it was the best decision of my life.

Soon after I wrote my last Beaver Tale last February we did a trip to Engelberg with Rotex here, and there we got to see all the other exchange students once again. We went Ice



skating, which was definitely embarrassing because I have no idea how to skate, and was questioned multiple times if I was even Canadian. Following that we had a night in a Youth Hostel with the other exchange students and had an awesome time. The next day it warmed up quite a bit, and our original plan was to go tobogganing down the mountain, but we couldn't as a lot of the snow had melted because of the warm weather, so instead we went tubing

down a part of the mountain and had an amazing time. It was in general an amazing weekend and I had the time of my life.

Soon after that weekend I went back to school, and we had our performances for Theatre. As I said before in my previous Beaver Tales, I participated in the Theatre at my school. As March rolled around we had our big debut. We all nailed it and the performance went perfectly. It was definitely a fun experience, and I had some fun laughs with the crowd and the theatre crew about my funny English accent. I had many people come up to me after the show and congratulate me on getting up on stage and performing, regardless of it being a foreign language. It was definitely an amazing experience and it was something that I would live all over again in a heartbeat if given the chance, regardless of all the stress and practicing.

Following that I had my spring holidays, which was two weeks off right after Easter. During the first week of holidays, I went on a trip with my YEO's wife and the other exchange



student in my club to east Switzerland, specifically the Bodensee. There is the point where Austria Germany and Switzerland all meet, and it is the largest lake on Swiss borders. We spent our nights on the Swiss side of the border in Romanshorn, and during our time there we traveled to Friedrichshafen on a cruise ship, which was essentially the Florida of

Germany. We then drove around the lake and ate our dinner in Austria, and then drove down to Liechtenstein and spent the night there. We then toured the tiny country of Liechtenstein, and drove home the next day. It was an amazing experience and I got to see a lot of things that I couldn't have seen otherwise.

Then after a relatively quiet month of April, we went to Interlaken with all the other exchange students, organized with Rotex once again. There we got to see almost all the



exchange students in Switzerland, and we all survived through the bad weather together by taking way too many photos. We then arrived to a smaller town called Thun, and there we were able to tour around the city and we were given the assignment to take photos with specific landmarks around the city, and we had to find them ourselves. We also found a Canadian bar in Thun, which is the first Canadian store I've seen here! It was an amazing experience and it made me that much closer to the other exchange

students.

And a recent travel that I just did this weekend (May 14-15th), I went to Freiburg Germany with my host family. There we went around the city sightseeing and shopping, as it is much cheaper in Germany than it is in Switzerland. There we saw the Münster, which is the only part of the city that survived the Second World War, and is an amazing church to see in person. Then we went back to the hotel and had a giant dinner, and then left the next day to go to the Schwarzwald (black forest), which is a collection of hills covered in a thick forest. There we saw the biggest waterfall in Germany, and then we traveled into a mine where we could travel inside the mountain and look at the stone they dug up inside the mountain.



With all these amazing adventures, I would say that I have enough stories to last me a lifetime. However, I don't think that's the end to the stories I am going to make here on exchange, as I still have two months left, and I am going to make the most of every last second of that. We have a giant Euro Tour at the end of June, right before I leave, and there I will have adventures to last multiple lifetimes. I would like to thank Rotary Switzerland and Canada, as both of them have given me so many amazing opportunities that have changed my life. Along with that my host families as well have given me so many amazing experiences that I will never forget, along with giving me a home to call my own.

Thank you so much for reading,

Cameron