



Jonah

from
Burlington Lakeshore
to
Finland

“Finnish Food is Missing Seasoning”

Living in Finland for the past 3 months has been an interesting and exciting experience. When I first landed in Finland the weather was very similar to South Ontario as it is cold in the morning, warm in the afternoon and cold again in the evening. The first week here was spent in a Rotary organized language camp with around 70 other exchange students all trying to understand the basics of Finnish. There are 2 other Canadians here in Finland, both girls a year younger than me.



In the language camp the food we ate was good but missing a certain flavor it was more bland as most dishes involve boiled potatoes and some fish which in my opinion is good but bland.

The language is in my opinion really challenging as they have rolled R's in some of their words but I can't roll R's for the life of me. I'm slowly starting to understand the language better but sometimes I'm completely lost when someone speaks Finnish to me.



After the language camp my host mom and another host parent picked me up and drove me and a Mexican girl to a town called Kauhajoki which is almost 4 hours Northwest of Helsinki.

A few days after arriving in town I started school where I'm taking math, gym, English and some other courses that are a little difficult because of the language. When I'm not at school, me and my friends go to the gym and push each other to become stronger and occasionally on the weekends my host parents drive me to an ice rink where I'm able to continue skating. The most important thing I've brought to Finland is my ice skates. I've been able to use them for a good amount of time.



I have 3 families throughout my exchange and after meeting all the families they are all super nice. The family I'm staying with now allows me to do so much and has even taken me on a trip to Stockholm which was so much fun. I will go to my next host family towards the end of November.

Before switching to my next host family, the Rotary has a Lapland trip planned where we are going to snowboard and hopefully get the chance to skate. It's almost an 8-hour bus trip up to Lapland so hopefully I'll get some sleep but for all I know all of us exchange students are gonna be partying on the bus.

Overall Finland so far has been a great experience and until next time have a great day
😊 *Jonah*

