

Hey everyone,

by now my exchange year is over, my mum came and we're making a little trip around the island. But let's talk about my last couple of weeks here.

Not everyone's favourite, but one of my highlights was going grocery shopping at Costco's. My hostparents took me there, after me having asked them multiple times: it was worth it! Costco is a huge supermarket, but you can literally get everything there. From electronic devices to furniture and all kinds of food, obviously. The special thing about Costco is that everything is sold in bigger amounts than usual, which makes it in the long run less expensive. Tasting stations, where warm samples were offered and a meal station, where we got our lunch made grocery shopping to a real event.



Beginning of June, all the "last times" began. Like the last fine arts night and the last trad band practice which came with it. It was a nice little concert, where I performed with the trad band, my hostsister with the chamber choir and at the end everyone singing one final song together. Overall, I am really happy to have played in the trad band this year and to have taken a sneak peek in the fiddle world. I am the most grateful to my music teacher Mrs Carroll, who helped me getting into the Calos Youth Orchestra, taught me guitar and nutrition class and just helped me with everything. She is the best.



The last trip with the NISEP organization was a whale and puffin watching tour with a supper afterwards. We were one of the lucky ones who saw a whale, just the tale a couple of times - these animals are impressive. The boat took a tour around a little island group in front of the southern shore, where seabird colonies live. We saw the tiny, super cute puffins, seagulls and other black and white birds which looked like penguins.

The summer finally came to Newfoundland. There are still rainy and foggy days, but way less than during winter. With some friends, we organized a hiking trip, and enjoyed the beautiful nature around here. The trail went along the coastline, through forest parts and always not far away from the water. We could look down into beautiful coves, where the water seemed to be turquoise.

Then my mum came on the day of the graduation. My hostsister Adriana went as my date to the graduation, so that she could also experience it. My hostdad drove us in his old red car to school, we felt like stars in it. It was extremely hot that day, around 30 degrees with high humidity. The gym had undergone a complete transformation, an amazing decoration was put up with balloons and lights. The day started with the graduation ceremony, where everyone got their certificate, awards and scholarships were

announced. Afterwards a huge buffet was provided in the cafeteria. Then the dance started with a son and daughter dance, and continued until everyone has left. One of my highlights that day was a photomirror, which works like a photobox, and the moment when everyone threw their cap into the air.

Now, that my exchange year is over, how was it? I would definitely do it again. My English improved significantly, and I learned a lot about myself. I made good International and Canadian friends, and I am certain to stay in contact with them. Having a hostsister was great, we became really close friends, and we already saved a date to meet up next year. The Canadian Highschool was really different from a German one, I really enjoyed the interactive classes like nutrition and guitar class. It was hard to get into sports teams, but playing and learning frisbee has been great. Living with my hostfamily wasn't always that easy. The biggest challenge had its rootcause by the large age difference - both of my hostparents turned 70 this year - and their health status not being the best, especially that of my hostmum. It seemed to me that it was always a big effort to give us a ride or do something with us, so we could not really build up a relationship.

I really encourage everyone to come and spend one year in a Canadian School in this wonderful country. All the obstacles and challenges can be managed and I am very grateful to everybody who supported me for such a great experience.

