Canada - Rhianna Nolan

Time for another bounder report already? Are you sure? Where did all the time go??
I guess I'll pick up from where my last report ended… I was still on my Cross Canada Tour and headed to Toronto. While in Toronto we got to go to Niagara Falls – if was so amazing to see it in real life and from the bottom of the falls – we went on the Maid of the Mist and got semi-soaked despite wearing raincoats! From Toronto we went to Edmonton, Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper, Vancouver, Salt Spring Island and Victoria. We go to do and go to some great things on the tour – West Edmonton Mall (the largest mall in the world with indoor water park and amusement park), the Calgary Stampede, white water rafting (the water was freezing! 5°C!), hiking at Lake Louise, whale watching (the ORCAS came so close to our boat and one swam right underneath us!!) and tons of exploring wherever we went. It was great!! I would do it again in an instant! The other students became almost like family – I hate saying goodbye!

Life after the Cross Canada Tour has been a little quiet but when I got back it was still summer holidays so I had plenty of time to relax. But soon after I got back I went camping with my first host family and some of their relatives near 100 Mile House (about 8hrs north of Cranbrook). I went trail riding a couple of times and played with the kids – they're hilarious!! They love the movie Napoleon Dynamite and they're constantly trying to copy things from the movie! It was a really great week – we hung out by the lake during the day and the campfire at night. When I got back I hung out with my host sister a bit but she was extremely busy practicing for her final piano exam and packing for her exchange to France. We drove to Spokane, USA to put her on the plane to France along with some other Rotary exchange students. Since then I've been playing golf with my host family and hanging out at their summer house on Kootenay Lake – a really huge lake (144 kms long) 1½ hours from Cranbrook. Unfortunately I'm still not very good at golf but at least I'm a bit better than my host mum. Their place on Kootenay Lake is so beautiful and they have their own little beach…. Well, the water isn't salty and there are no waves (apart from the tiny ones that the boats make) but it's as close as I'm going to get to a beach in the Kootenays. They even have a boat and we went tubing – it was lots of fun!

There were a couple of hot days here (30°C) and it was so funny listening to the Rotarians whinge about how hot it was! One lady even said that it was too hot for her to sleep upstairs so she had to sleep in her basement!

The new Rotary exchange students in Cranbrook arrived during the summer – Rasmus from Denmark and Rogelio from Mexico. They're really nice guys and I was surprised to hear how good their English is!! Oh, funny story – we took Rogelio to their house on Kootenay Lake and went tubing. Unfortunately the bottom of Rogelio's tube deflated and his bottom had no protection from all the bumpy waves! He said that he didn't want to see a chair the next day!! I guess you had to be there…..

I've been back at school for 3 weeks now and am slowly getting back into the routine. I'm taking a couple of harder classes this semester (I was afraid my brain had turned into a pile of goo from the easy classes I took last semester but luckily it still works and I'm whipping it back into shape ☺). I'm taking Philosophy, Marketing, Drama: Film and Television (a movie making class) and a computer class. I've also joined the school choir and am helping with the school musical – The Sound of Music.

A couple of weekends I went to the Inbound Orientation weekend and met all the new exchange students (I'm the only January – January student in my district). I feel so old! But, seriously, they're a really great group and it was a fun weekend. I even taught everybody how to do the nutbush! Oh, and last weekend I went to a concert with my host family. It was a group of 4 tenors called Destino and they were so good!

Well, fall (autumn) is definitely here – trees are turning all different shades of yellow, red and brown, and there is snow in the mountains around Cranbrook again. This also means that the ice hockey season has started again! Hooray! I went to the Kootenay Ice's (local hockey team

in the WHL) first game of the season and I have a feeling its going to be a great season (not that I'm a hockey expert or anything!).

Well, I'd better be going – I made a pavlova last night (it actually turned out!) because I'm having some people over for dinner to try it out!

Hugs and kisses,
Rhianna