



## Sahil

### From Mississauga to Denmark

#### *I feel blessed to have been able to come here*

Already 6 months have passed since that anxious day in August, and only 4 more until I'm back where I started. It's really hard to believe. There is still so much left to do, and so many places to see. Being more than halfway through my exchange I can already see the impact it's making on my life. I have learned a lot more about Scandinavian culture and the world as a whole. I also feel as if I have matured and grown a lot as a person. To think I have only 4 more months here is a sad thought, but it never makes me forget how blessed I am to have been able to come here in the first place.

Christmas and New Year's was a big event that happened since the last Beaver Tale. I went with my family to Odense, a city where my host family's relatives live. We stayed at their house for 3 days, singing around the Christmas tree, making jokes, exchanging gifts. It really was a different experience than anything I've done in Canada. For New Years I went to a private party hosted by some of my school friends. That was really enjoyable, with non-stop fireworks during the entire day. There really was nothing else I would have rather done in that time period. I stayed in contact with my real family but homesickness was not really an issue. I fit in perfectly with my new host family.

Speaking of which, I have already changed to my second family. They are amazing and I feel a sense of belonging. My host sisters and I are really close and I can't imagine the day I have to leave. Also the convenience of living close to the city makes it easier for me to go out and explore what it has to offer. I also live significantly closer to my school, allowing me to bike there every day. A lot of school friends live in my area so sometimes I have someone to bike home with.

Some days I play basketball at a local recreational center. I practice with the A team; the best for the age group. I am not nearly as good as the worst player on the team, but I really enjoy their company and am learning a lot about the sport, as well as staying active. There are many ways to keep busy in Copenhagen. Sometimes I enjoy a walk in the park, or a bike ride down to the city. Everything is a new experience and the excitement that comes with it is not worth missing.

One of the best weekends of my life was the Holbæk get together. To be honest there was no structure to the program or very many activities that we could choose from, but just being together with all the exchange students made it worthwhile. This weekend also served as a Halloween costume party. It was so much fun to see the effort people put into their costumes. In Denmark it is not customary to celebrate Halloween, so this weekend was a nice gesture by Rotary. It was also the last official get

February 2012

together before the oldies left to their countries. This was sad, but almost all the exchange students enjoyed their year to the fullest, and had no regrets.

All in all the second quarter of my trip has been phenomenal, with new people to meet, new foods to try, and new places to see. I would not trade this experience for anything, and Denmark has already become a second home to me. I love being able to lead a life more exciting than the one I had in Canada, but in a different place altogether. There is so much to look forward to with the Euro Tour and the remaining few months of school. I am always thankful for this experience and will make the most of every minute I have left here.

Tak og vi ses

*Sakil*