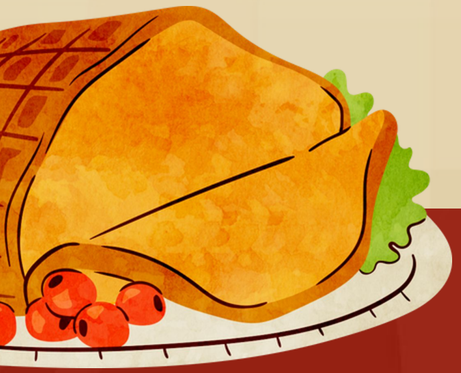
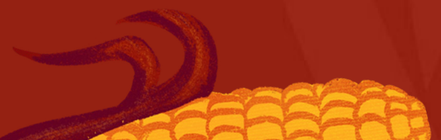
My exchange year in Canada

By Aliénor Violot













Basic questions

1 Why ?

My first goal was to really **deepen my knowledge** in English. The second one was to test myself if I was able to **live "by myself"** (without my parents).

2 Where ?

I got placed in **Komoka**; a very small town near **London, ON**.

3 When ?

I arrived the **27th of August** and my departure for Switzerland on **June 28th**. In total, I spent **10 months** there.













Komoka

It's a small community near **London, Ontario**. There are approximately **2,000 inhabitants.**

⚠️Don't hesitate to ask your host family for a ride if you need it !! My city only had only ten stores so I had to plan in advance when I wanted to buy something :)

My Host Family

I had a lovely host family with three children (1yo, 6yo, and 9yo) + their parents and two cats. They are from Russia and England. Because of that, I also got the chance to learn about their cultures. I'm very grateful that I had them as my host family. My host mom's cooking was amazing and my host dad was sooooo funny.



Here it's my host dad and my two host sister playing in the snow! *(I took the picture)*

Let's go cowboys!!



Medway High School

There are between **1,400 and 1,500 students** in the school. They teach from **grades 9 to 13**. A major difference between schools in Switzerland and Canada is that students have the **same subjects for an entire semester**. Every day, you have the **same classes with the same people at the same time**. It sounds repetitive, but it truly isn't if you have friends with you. Also, you will have **different classmates in each class**.

Reminder: *you can change your classes if you don't like them, but do it asap at the first semester. There are many more subjects there than here, so try to learn stuff you aren't able to learn back home.*

⚠️Lunch is between 2nd and 3rd period (for grade 11).

⚠️Grade 9 & 11 eat together; Grade 10 & 12 eat after.

My first semester

Photography

8:15 - 9:30

I loved this class; that's where I met my friends. Also, there was a Dark Room!!

Math (Gr.11)

9:35 - 10:55

Grade 11 is the equivalent of the 1st year of College in Switzerland.

Fashion

11:40 - 12:55

I got the chance to learn how to saw!

English

13:00 - 14:15

There is different level of English classes so make sure you choose one you will progress in. You are here to learn English

My second semester

Math (Gr. 12)

8:15 - 9:30

I took grade 12 because it's the equivalent of the 2ng grade of College in Switzerland so I didn't have to catch up

S.A.P

9:35 - 10:55

Sociology, **A**nthropology and **P**sychology. Very fun class to learn about ourselves.

Spare

11:40 - 12:55

A spare is a study time given by the school. You can do whatever you want during it. I used it to study for my C1.

Tech Design

13:00 - 14:15

Best class ever, super chill and I got an amazing teacher!

My friends!

I present to you my friend group. I am so grateful to have them as my friend. We grew up so close in such little amount of time that it sound extraordinary.

Fortunately, we can still be in contact through social media. I talk to them nearly everyday.

If stars align, I'm planning on coming back for their graduation as a surprise.



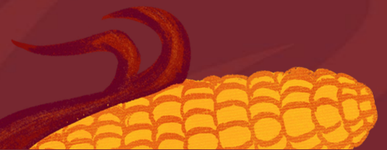
Clubs!

More important than we thought (really).













In General (clubs)

Clubs are essential if you want to make friends quickly and create strong bonds with them. They take place either right after school or during lunch. Join them because that's how you will get to go on a lot of field trips.



Mines



Concert Choir

We were the best choir of our board. A lot of concert and we won tons of trophies + Bonus point for the uniform, it was my dream.



Music council

The best way to learn how your school work, a lot a events' planning.

THE FAMOUS YELLOW BUS

If we are being honest, we all dreamed once to get on THE yellow school bus.

They do exist there! Of course if you prefer to walk or someone can drop you off you are not obligated to use it. If you live in a neighbourhood you will have a meeting point near where you live but if your house is “alone” (you will see what I mean there) the bus wait directly at the front of your house.



Part 2.

Good to know : Where you sit for the first 3 days will be where you sit for the rest of the year (especially in packed bus).

Always bring a jacket/coat with you when it’s cold; buses do not protect from the cold.

The bus drivers are so cool and chill!! Go talk to them, they have tons of story ;)










Some pictures are worth a thousand words
















Questions?

If you have questions, fears, doubts, or simply want to learn more about my experience, feel free to contact me!

@alienor.zip

my instagram

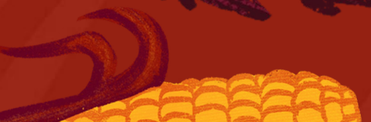
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Enjoy your stay :)

