



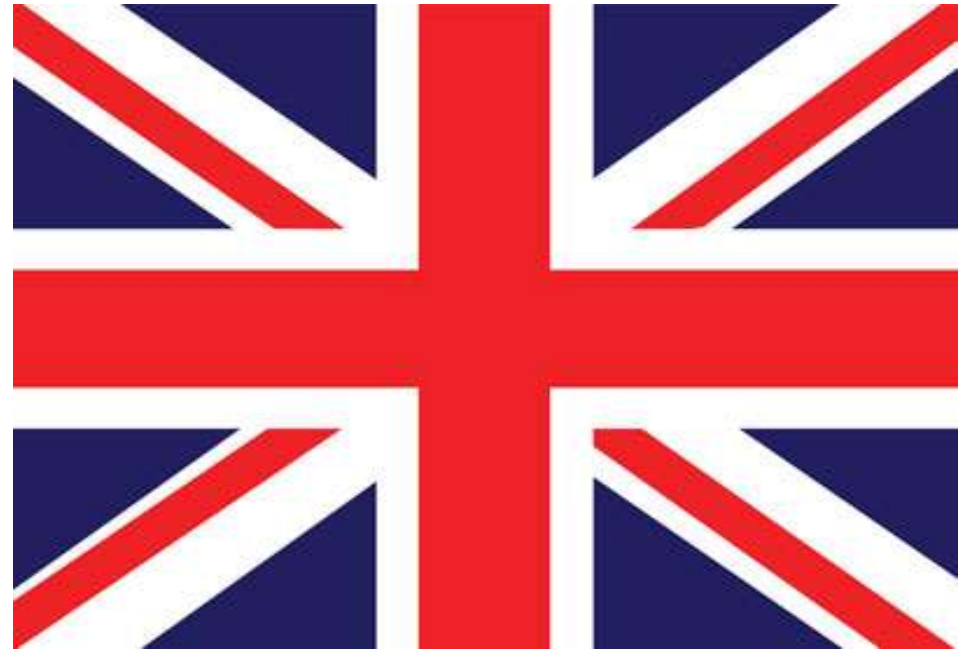
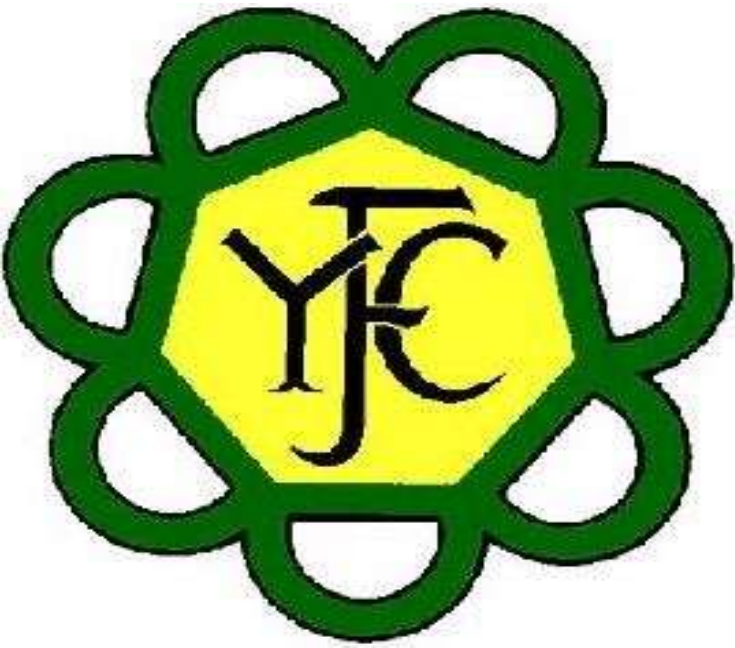
Oh Canada

4h under 21's homestay exchange
2010

Katie Hall Gloucestershire YFC

How I got there

- Simple really fill in a discovery form and send it off to national yfc get invited to discovery interview day in stoneleigh, simply answer some questions and i was approved to go!



Exchangee



- When you are approved for your trip you are asked to host a 'twin' that will host you when in Canada, so they come and travel around England for 5 weeks and spend one week with you, which is the same for you in Canada. Your twin is chosen by the form you fill in so interests, college, age etc.



Hosting

- So when my 'twin' came to England i was her final week before she flew home, so i asked what she would like to do before she went and she said go to Stonehenge. So we did we also went round some Cotswold villages, sheep shearing, young farmers meetings and a ball and lots of other activities.
- The main thing to remember when hosting is to keep it fun and exciting and inviting. They are new and every place they stay is different.



My Trip

- So i left Heathrow in England, and headed for Calgary Alberta Canada, i was so scared and so excited i had no idea what i was going into or who i was meeting!



- After an 8 hour flight i had arrived to be greeted by a family of 3 girls in the airport, they were really nice and welcoming it was then a 3 hour drive North East to a town called Hanna. On the way to the town there was miles and miles of nothing, if you want to know what nothing looks like head to Canada.



- The first day was spent on the farm looking at the cattle and we had a traditional bbq with weener sausages and schmores!!!



This is my first host family.



← Hutterites

Traditional School Bus →



- So the rest of the week was spent on an arable farm, meeting some huterites horse back riding and visiting a local school.



Using a portable combine to see if the wheat is dry enough to combine.



Horse back riding Cow girl style!!!

Some more places i visited in Hanna



The local coal mine.



Drumheller dinosaurs lived here.



← Horseshoe Gorge

The only hill in Hanna. →



Week 2

- Week 2 was spent with my 'twin' Lexi and they took me on a trip through the rockies for the first 3 days it was amazing!!!!




← Banff

Lake Louise
with my twin
Lexi.



More Rockies



Glacier Walk 

A stag 

Athabasca Falls 




A moose ran across the highway in front of us

Rest of Week 2



Edmonton   A night out Canada style

On the farm 



The rest of the week was split between Edmonton where Lexi is at university and on the farm in Barrhead.

Week3

- Week 3 was spent with the Redrich Family in Forestburg they had a pedigree beef farm and the first three days was spent at a big show and sale for pedigree beef cattle, hard work but good fun and very interesting.



This was my favourite cow on the farm. Shes a red angus and is so quiet and timid i had a real soft spot for her.



The family I stayed with



On the farm



The First of the snow fell whilst in Forestburg, one word describes it COLD!



Week 4

- Week 4 was spent the furthest North in my trip in a place called Boyle, it was very different to other places i had stayed as it was surrounded by forest and not much open space, it was bear country however i didnt see any bears, There was glorious sunsets and amazing sunrises this was the week i saw the northern lights dancing in the sky. I spent the week with a seed merchant and his wife so i saw some amazing things this is also the week i broke my camera it didnt like the snow so i have a few pictures.



Sunset through the trees



This is Boyle High Street a typical Canadian High Street



A football game i watched in Edmonton, Edmonton Eskimos.



Week 5

- So i flew from Edmonton to Toronto with my province group from Alberta, the week spent in Toronto would be spent at a hotel in the middle of the city at the 4H national conference where elected 4h members would spend a week together getting to know each other and doing activities such as going up the Toronto tower, royal Toronto winter fair, we also had the opportunity to go around the John Deere factory and Niagra falls. The week was full of laughing and lots of talking, singing and good old fashioned fun my favourite part of week 5 was the Toronto Royal Fair and the shuffle your buns game, which has been bought back to the UK and gets played regularly at our YFC meetings.
- When applying for the trip there are 3 lucky delegates that get chosen from YFC and we spend the 4 weeks apart in our own provinces and spend the final week together in Toronto.



← Me at the top of the tower



The other 2 delegates → from the UK

← Toronto Tower

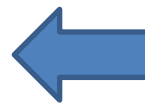




My group from Alberta.



Myself and the UK delegates on the hawaiiin theme night.



Me and Sam loving the recycled Robot in the mall in Toronto

Thank You

- My trip to Canada was amazing, breathtaking, interesting, different and overall superb. I cant express to you reading this how much your missing out if you don't take a discovery trip its a great way to travel and your with like minded people who are so welcoming and interested to know about you. Without YFC and 4H this trip wouldn't be possible so id like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped organise and made the trip of a lifetime a reality. I will never forget the people i have met and the great friends i have made by taking this trip, so go for it what have you got to loose???