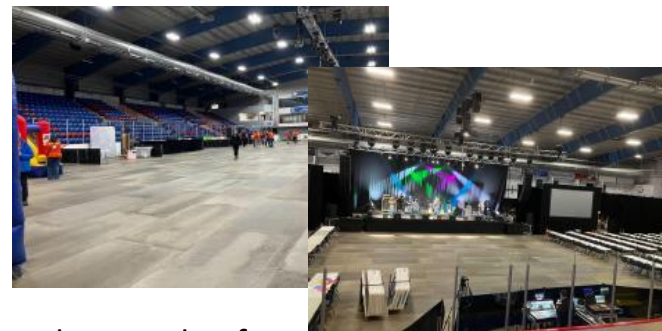


Dull Days in Winter? Not in Canada

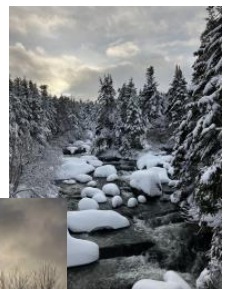
This month started with my first volunteering job. For two weeks the Frosty Festival took place in Mount Pearl. A lot of different events were happening such as concerts, a Parade of Lights, Frosty's birthday party and his breakfast, a Bingo night, and a lot more. For every generation attractions were planned. Most of these took place in an ice skating arena. A normal floor was put on top of the ice, so that you could just imagine the ice underneath.



I volunteered at three events with other teenagers. In Canada, you have to do at least 30 volunteering hours to graduate. This is part of the Career and Education class.



Personally, I think it is a great idea, because as a student you try to use every opportunity to get your hours done and at the same time you support the respective associations a lot. For the Parade of Lights we had to hand out glow sticks and other stuff to the children after having unpacked and prepared it all. At Frosty's birthday party we helped to set up jumping castles and other attractions. Later on, we took care of the children, so that no one got hurt in the castles and I joined a drumming class guiding children what to do. In general, it was a great experience and I got 12 volunteering hours done without even having taken career education class.

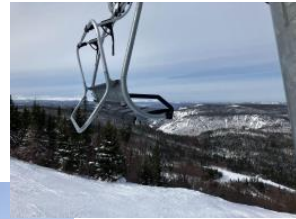


Two big snowstorms caused snow days and brought again a lot of new snow. The snow hill in our front yard was getting too high for the snowblower, so my host parents' son-in-law came to better distribute all the snow with his small excavator.



All the snow offered perfect conditions for the skitrip I went on with my organisation. We drove 10 hours by bus all across the island to a ski resort called Marble Mountain. It is located next to the small town Corner Brook on a Fjord. The ski resort had just three lifts, but only with the main and fastest lift you could reach every slope. The skiing area offered a big variety of slopes, a lot of black ones as well as signposted routes in the terrain. We stayed in a hotel for three nights and went skiing for two whole days. The first day, we all

got divided up into groups with teachers, but after one ride together, where they checked our skiing skills, we could go on our own the rest of the day. Overnight it snowed again, so the slopes in the terrain were a lot of fun. The rented equipment was pretty good, just the skiing boots were too tight, so all our shin bones hurt and are still hurting. The night skiing was a great experience as well. Just one lift was open and three slopes were illuminated. Compared to skiing in Europe the view is totally different. We could see parts of the ocean as well as frozen lakes and Canadian forests, but the lifts are clearly of higher quality in Europe.



I also participated in the Kiwanis music festival. It is a kind of competition with all kinds of groups and age levels. It was a great experience as I have not done many music competitions so far.



Last but not least, the Husky Havuk Day took place at our school. All kinds of different activities and food were offered, e.g. free hot dogs, badminton as well as a dodgeball tournament. Despite all the activities, which included an escape room, video games, cooking, cupcake decorations, snowshoe walking and karaoke, I spent most of the time with sports, playing first in the girls' badminton tournament and later in the dodgeball tournament and in between playing table tennis in the cafeteria. I knew from the last badminton tournament that almost every team had their own team t-shirts, but at the dodgeball tournament, the team spirit came to a new level. Everyone was so hyped and cheering for everybody. It started with introducing every team, where we ran around the gym with blinking lights and loud music, everyone cheering. I have never played dodgeball before, but it was not that hard to understand. One of the nicest moments was when one of the disabled children in my school was the last one of his team in the field and the other team let him win. He was so happy and everyone was cheering at him – what a great moment!



Winter is still not over, that's why I am going on a second ski trip with my school, where I am really looking forward to 😊 .

