



In 2011 Nova Scotia was celebrating 100 years of Guiding. They organised the NS Heritage Explosion 2011 Camp, and I was very fortunate to be invited to Canada to help them celebrate.

I have enjoyed Canada ever so much; I encountered the most amazing experience in my entire life, where I made some incredible friends who I will never forget; joined in with astonishingly fun traditional games; and so much more...

In the early morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2011, I had to get up bright and early, around 6am, to get ready for the journey to Heathrow airport to meet up with the other 11 girls and 3 leaders. I arrived at the airport at about 8:30am, and we were to board our plane, Air Canada, at 12:30pm. But it was a bit nerve-wracking when going through security and customs, because you feel so innocent but there's that feeling that you may have done something wrong! Thankfully, everything was all right, and we were on the plane in no time. I watched loads of films on the plane, as I didn't want to sleep, although the leaders were asleep in no time! The food was really nice on the plane too, which was a change! The flight lasted around 7 hours.



← Our plane, The food →



We stayed in a Youth Hostel for the first two nights, so one thing we got to do was go whale watching and shopping in Halifax. Whale watching was great, although we didn't see a whale. However, we saw a seal in front of the boat, I got to hold a lobster, and we got to get right up close to some seagulls by feeding them.



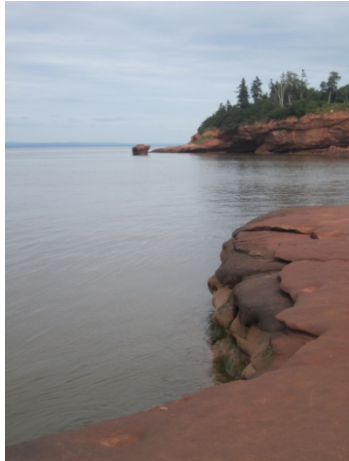


We also went to Pier 21 where we learnt about immigrants going to Halifax and it was really interesting. Another thing we got to do was go to the busking festival and see lots of people playing music and doing tricks. This was really fun and a great thing to go to because it was really entertaining for all of us!

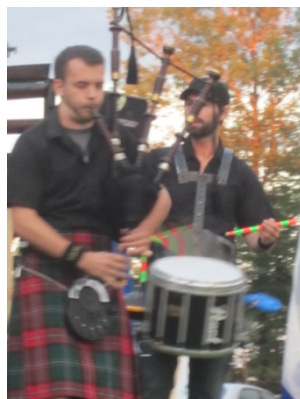


The next day we went to the Halifax Citadel where we watched the cannon be fired (it was very loud!), and saw the guards and tried to make them smile, but unfortunately we didn't succeed! Then we eventually arrived at the campsite, and the first thing that we all noticed were the grasshoppers - there were hundreds of thousands of them, literally! It was a little scary, however, when we were in our tents at night, trying to get to sleep, and hearing the coyotes howling - they seemed very near!

The following days we all got to do things like crafts, where I made a cape for the Woman's Shelter, a doll, a mini pillow, a cross stitch tag, and a paperclip 'Dude'. I really enjoyed creating these, and would definitely teach others how to make them and make more myself! There were many workshops going on every day, like Lights, Camera, Action and HAM Radio, but I think the best one was where we played traditional games and also tried a bit of Tinikling which was REALLY fun! It was great to design our own tiles to go on the little lighthouse that we made, saying good things about ourselves - this really got us thinking and made us learn new things about each other and ourselves. Another memorable day was when we went to a glass studio, where we designed and created our very own, unique stained glass sun catcher. Then we went to this miniature version of a lighthouse, which was proposed seventh wonder of the world apparently, and the views were just astonishing! They were absolutely amazing - the red rock was so vibrant and we sat on the edge, with our feet dangling over the water while the tide was in. We stayed there until the tide went out, and then we could walk along the rocks to get to the cave on the other side - it was all very impressive.



The most amazing band played for us in one of the first nights - SQUID. They were **absolutely amazing!** They were ever so good, and EVERYONE was dancing along with the music. It was a definitely something to remember! It was something totally brand new; I had never experienced something like it before. I loved their music, especially the beat boxing! At the end, they were giving out wristbands with their names on them, and I just simply had to have one!



But I think the greatest thing of all was doing the swaps, and getting loads of amazing things and memories that will never be forgotten; and at the same time, I made some of the best friends in my

Emily Dodd, 1<sup>st</sup> Aston Clinton Guides.



life. I will definitely try again for another trip in the future, because this has really opened up my mind to what I can do. It has taught me self confidence, responsibility, further social skills and so much more...



The camp



Us: The Bucks Guide swans



Us: The Bucks Guides after finishing the amazing race