



Ava '23

Germany

Not long after being accepted to RLC, I found myself sitting in a plane heading to Toronto for the first time in my life. I was definitely scared, but so ready for the change. At that point I was used to a very different life than what I was soon to experience at Rosseau. Making the transition was more difficult than I expected, but little did I know how much I would learn from this place and these people.

I have to say that when I first came to RLC I was not convinced that it was the right place for me. ... everyone seemed so confident, and I was anxious about how to integrate myself, but quickly found that people were much more approachable than I thought. I was met with warm welcomes and giant smiles the instant I stepped foot on campus.

As my family can tell you, I'm highly opposed to the cold and definitely not an outdoorsy person. Before coming to RLC, camping seemed impossible to me. Not to mention canoeing or portaging ... although I still think that I will be completing outtrips too often [after RLC] I've definitely found more passion for the outdoors and all the advantages of being outdoors. Having missed the first outtrip, I was adamant to make the most of my last opportunity. I soon found myself singing along to songs at the campfire and making late night trips through the woods. The outtrip definitely helped me understand the school a little better, and forming relationships and friendships

Although it took me a while to fully get used to life in Canada, I couldn't have asked for a more helpful environment. The school and the people here have helped me build my confidence so much, and ensured that I felt comfortable in the most challenging situations.

Coming here I wasn't expecting too much of a change from my previous, more sheltered life, only to find myself in various leadership opportunities, such as being a prefect, and even joining rugby. ...having to work with my community has to be one of the most valuable lessons this school has taught me, not only as a student, but as a team member.

My first year was spent mostly focussing on my academics I had spent most of my time at the gym or sitting in my room, forgetting all the experiences that the school offers. Although I'm grateful for the huge improvements that I've made academically, I'm happy to say that the past year has given me the opportunity to embrace what RLC is all about. I have met some amazing people and created lasting memories.

