



St Stithians Girls College – Johannesburg, South Africa
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Visiting foreign countries is always exciting, however, having been fortunate enough to spend time in a country for an extended period allowed for a deeper perspective and a more enriched experience than I could have imagined. My exchange in Johannesburg, South Africa for seven weeks was a fabulous and treasured experience. Johannesburg is a notoriously dangerous city, however I felt safe at all times. Security is most definitely a priority and most of the families living there have gated homes and are not free to come and go by foot. Protection and safety are integrated into the ways of life for the families I spent time with and got to know, and although it was different than life in Canada, it was fascinating to see how others live.

I was matched with an extremely caring and fun-loving host family with very busy and active lives. The Hudson family has four daughters, two dogs, two cats and a tortoise! The youngest one, Sophie, is a clever and curious five-year-old, with whom I played and swam outside with most of my days. The ten-year-old, Grace, always made an effort to make me feel at home, and Leigh, the thirteen-year-old, is a spirited, talented and bright girl as well. Olivia, my host and I became great friends. She was very considerate of me, always ensuring that I was enjoying myself while there! The parents Sally and Brett are hospitable and loving people that welcomed me with open arms from the start. The Hudson family was the best host family I could ask for and I truly hope to see them all again soon.

The St Stithians Girls' College is the school I attended while on exchange. The school is located on the most beautiful campus and has a boys' college directly across from the girls'. The buildings and set up is far different than Lower Canada College. Most of the classrooms lead directly outdoors, whereas at LCC, there are indoor hallways connecting the rooms. The students and teachers were very spirited and always came to school with smiles on their faces. Due to the year-round warm weather, St Stithians College has spectacular pools, open to all students, teachers and even the parents. I tried new sports such as water polo and diving, which I thoroughly enjoyed!

Throughout my time there, I made many special friendships and experienced new things I would not have even thought of trying before. Very special memories and feelings were made that will always be with me. I am ecstatic for Olivia to spend seven weeks here in Montreal and look so forward to reciprocating and spending time with her again, Canadian style!