



Exchange Program 2025



Funded by



Dear Sir or Madam,

With this report, we would like to provide you with an insight into the second successful implementation of the exchange program between the **Nova Scotia Community College** (NSCC) and the **Berufliche Schule gewerbliche Logistik & Sicherheit** (BS27)¹ in 2025. As in the previous year, this will take the form of an illustrated and written review, focusing on the perspectives and impressions of the participating trainees. They are the ones who give this exchange its special quality and give it meaning and impact.

After the successful launch in 2024, it was clear to both partner institutions early on that we wanted to continue this exchange. Therefore, in November 2024, a new application for funding under the GATE program² was submitted to the **Joachim Herz Foundation**. The goal was to send five participants and one accompanying teacher on their way again in May 2025.

In fact, not all of the originally planned places could be filled this year. On the Canadian side, scheduling challenges – particularly with regard to the trainees' mandatory sea time – and a delayed funding approval meant that three participants were ultimately able to travel to Hamburg with a companion. On the German side, one participant was unexpectedly denied entry to Canada one day before departure due to last-minute entry formalities (eTA).

Despite these unforeseeable deviations, both sides consider the 2025 exchange to be extremely successful. The activities carried out, the intercultural experiences, and the professional exchange demonstrated the lasting impact of such a program – both on a personal and professional level. A continuation in 2026 is therefore firmly planned.

Our special thanks go to the Joachim Herz Foundation, whose funding once again contributed significantly to the success of this program. We would also like to thank everyone involved on both sides of the Atlantic for their commitment, openness, and support, which once again made this exchange a special experience.

Stephan Petersen

Exchange Program Coordinator, BS27

¹ Vocational School for Commercial Logistics and Security

² German Apprenticeship Training Exchange (GATE)

Visit of the NSCC group to Hamburg – May 2025

May 2025 Study Tour NSCC Group to Hamburg

Agenda – week of May 5th – 9th

Sunday May 4 th - Arrival	
May 5 th Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:00 Official welcome at BS27 • 08:45 Departure for company tour with Christian • 09:30 Visiting Container Terminal Buchardkai (CTB) • 12:30 Visiting C. Steinweg (break bulk cargo) • 13:30 Guided tour of Hamburg Tour guides: Stephan (BS27) and Lena (Student BS27) <p>Lunch somewhere on the road 😊</p>
May 6 th Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09:30 NSCC students follow BS27 students (2 groups) during their training day in school – Lena will be in charge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ training on barge (10:00 – 11:30) ◦ ropework - maintenance and repair of rope (12:00 – 13:30) <p>Lunch @ campus & Dinner together @ Gröninger (18:00 -21:00)</p>
May 7 th Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:30 Trip to the island of Helgoland with Stephan, Frank & students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ includes trip down the Lower Elbe (Untere Elbe) ◦ visit to the island 46 kilometers off the German coastline
May 8 th Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting times will be communicated May 7th NSCC students follow our BS27 students who will visit Canada during their workday into their training companies, i.e. HADAG, Rainer Abicht Elbreederei GmbH & Co. KG & ATG Alster-Touristic
May 9 th Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting times will be communicated May 7th Visiting the German Port Museum with Christian & Stephan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 50s sheds ◦ The fleet ◦ Cargo handling at Bremen Quay ◦ Visiting the Peking
Saturday May 10 th - Departure	



Graham MacNeil, Stephan Petersen, Alexander Hudson, Erica Hanhams, Kim Young

From May 4 to 10, 2025, we once again welcomed guests from the Nautical Institute at the NSCC in Port Hawkesbury to Hamburg: Erica Hanhams and Alexander Hudson (Naval Engineering program), Graham MacNeil (Nautical Science program), and accompanying instructor Kim Young.

It was a great pleasure for the teachers of BS27, and especially for our harbor skipper trainees, to experience our school and maritime Hamburg together.

As can be seen from the schedule on the previous page, the week began with exciting factory tours. On Tuesday, the guests accompanied our trainees during their classes – including practical training. On Wednesday, we and the harbor skipper class visited the offshore island of Heligoland. In addition to visiting the island, the Canadian guests were also able to take a look at the bridge and engine room of the Halunder Jet.

On Thursday, the trip continued to the training companies: The Canadians accompanied our trainees to HADAG, ATG, and Abicht, where they were also given the opportunity to take the helm themselves. The trip concluded with a visit to the Harbor Museum – including a guided tour of the historic sheds and the four-masted barque Peking.

The participants describe all their further impressions in their reports on the following pages. A week is short – but this exchange was intense, lively, and rewarding. My special thanks go to all the participating companies and supporters who contributed to its success.

Stephan Petersen

Exchange Program Coordinator, BS27

Travel report - Erica Hanhams

Reflection on My Exchange Trip to the BS27 – Hamburg, Germany

My recent visit to the BS27 in Hamburg was an incredibly rewarding and memorable experience. From the moment we arrived, the trip was exceptionally well-organized, and we were warmly welcomed by both the students and staff. Their hospitality made it easy to feel at home and fully engage in the exchange.

One of the highlights of the trip was how effortless it was to navigate the city. Commuting to and from different locations was smooth and stress-free, allowing us to make the most of our time in Hamburg.

The city itself is stunning—its architecture, vibrant waterfront, and rich cultural atmosphere made every outing a pleasure.

I especially appreciated the balance in our daily schedule. It was thoughtfully planned to allow time for group activities while also giving us the flexibility to explore at our own pace. At no point did the schedule feel rushed, which helped create a relaxed and enjoyable environment throughout the trip.

The visit to Helgoland and the tour of the Hamburg Port Museum were standout moments for me. Learning about the city's maritime history and its significance as one of Europe's major ports was fascinating and directly tied into my studies. These experiences not only deepened my appreciation for Hamburg's role in global shipping but also enhanced my understanding of the industry from an international perspective.

If I may offer a small suggestion for future trips, it would be helpful to stay at accommodations that either include breakfast or offer basic amenities like a mini fridge in the room. Having access to simple breakfast options would have added an extra layer of convenience, especially given our full and active days.

I'm sincerely grateful for the opportunity to have participated in this exchange and to have experienced German culture in such a meaningful way. My only regret is not being able to attend the NSCC portion of the exchange when the German students visited. Unfortunately, I was recovering from a knee injury at the time. I'm pleased to share that my knee has fully healed, and I am now completing my final sea phase.

Thank you once again to everyone who made this exchange possible. It was an unforgettable experience that I will carry with me both personally and professionally.

Best regards, Erica Hanhams



Travel report - Alexander Hudson

The trip to visit BS27 in Hamburg was a wonderful experience that I feel very lucky to have taken part in. I feel that getting to interact with students in similar fields of study in different parts of the world is a very beneficial experience to us, not only as individuals, but as marine students and sailors. Our jobs often times will lead us to new locations and have us interacting with people of various cultures, whether it be crewmates, contractor's or dock workers, and it is imperative for the safe and efficient operation of a vessel that these differences do not hinder communication. Being able to travel to a different country now as a student, to see the similarities in life and schooling, and to build friendships with students there, helps to form open and inclusive mindsets that will carry forward throughout careers and lives beyond the job.



The trip as far as going and being in Hamburg was wonderful right from the start. Being met by BS27 faculty right at the airport and guided to the hotel made me feel immediately more comfortable and well taken care of in a new city. The tour we were given of the city further helped us become more comfortable and feel more oriented with our surroundings and let us enjoy the time there without feeling so lost.

I found the morning we spent on the barge with the students to be particularly interesting. It allowed us to begin to see the similarities and differences between the programs of BS27 and the nautical Institute. Seeing the students perform pre-start up engine checks allows marine engineering students, like me and Erica, to connect with the students, while watching the students sail the ship and tie up relates what they do to the navigators like Graham.

The day spent with the students that were coming to Canada was also very helpful as being given the time to spend together simply as a group of students really helps to show the similarities in experience as students and as people in general. This helped foster relationships and form bonds that extend beyond the time frame of the trip. Seeing the jobs of the students also helps to again highlight similarities and differences between the programs and allows us to share knowledge with each other and allows us to gain experience with different types of vessels and to see the way these vessels operate in a different country.

Port Hawkesbury and Nova Scotia in general are very small places, and to enter into an industry that is so international, I feel that having some sort of international experience is extremely important, and this trip to BS27 does exactly that. I feel that it is extremely beneficial to students in this field and I wish that more got to experience it.

Overall, I feel that having this exchange between NSCC and BS27 is an excellent program and a wonderful opportunity for the students, and for the two schools to work together and I sincerely hope that these small but frustrating issues [see *introductory remarks*] can be worked out to make the process even better for the next students that get the opportunity.

Sincerely, Alex Hudson

Travel report – Graham MacNeil

Moin aus Halifax!

Despite my subdued outward expression of enthusiasm, I had immense excitement to find out I was selected for the educational experience to travel to Hamburg this year through NSCC International. I am exceptionally grateful and proud to be one of the students chosen for an opportunity to learn about the maritime industry in Hamburg. Additionally, and equally important, be exposed to the people and culture of Hamburg, Germany. I was not prepared for the positive impact the trip would have on me.



This was my first real time travelling outside of Canada and it was an adventure where the knowledge I gained, the people I met, and the fun memories that were created, will stick with me for the rest of my life.

Throughout this report I will be covering my day-to-day experiences, some key learning components and moments, the culture and atmosphere from my perspective and how it contrasts with my home, Nova Scotia.

After one long flight with very little sleep followed by a short flight which included a short nap, we landed in Hamburg. We retrieved our checked bags, and made our way to the train, or S-Bahn, where we were happily greeted by Andrea. *Ich habe meinen Ausflug begonnen!*

Our first day started with a visit to the school. We introduced ourselves with the faculty and saw a quick glimpse of BS27. We enjoyed some coffee before taking off with Christian to our first destination on our agenda. During our drive, Christian provided us with a quick insight about the programs of the school, some of the landmarks and general knowledge about Hamburg.

Christian communicated an important matter for logistic and shoreside operation positions for some of the future careers through BS27. This was the threat and awareness of illegal drug trafficking through the port of Hamburg. A detrimental reality to ports all over the world and unfortunately Hamburg is no exception. For drugs to enter through a port, they generally require someone on the “inside”. New, young employees can be vulnerable people to this threat because the large amounts of promised “easy money” can seem very enticing. He expressed the importance of educating and making the students aware of the potential encounters. It is imperative to ignore and turn down any offers or possibilities of being involved with these criminals. Once the criminals have someone’s information, one is virtually obligated to perform whatever duty they request or face grave consequences. Although a bit frightening this is a very real problem that also occurs here in my home city of Halifax.

We arrived at the HHLA Container Terminal Burchardkai. This is where several students attending BS27 will work. At the school they are educated on multiple operation levels that take place at the terminal and the tasks they will perform as part of their vocational program..

Living in Halifax my whole life I am accustomed to the coast and living in a port city, mind you, not quite as big. I have driven by our container terminals hundreds of times. I was not prepared for the sheer size and scale of the Burchardkai container terminal in person. I had only ever seen something of that scale on the discovery channel! The fact that this container terminal

was so massive and busy made me feel exceptionally special and appreciative that we were able to visit the facility and be given a tour. The employees we encountered were kind, happy to crack some jokes and highly informative. Being able to see the terminal gave me a new understanding and very real perspective on world trade.

Some of my learnings specifically at the Burchardkai Terminal include:

- That roughly 30% of the containers in and out of Hamburg are transported via railcar with the majority being transported by truck or to feeder ships
- Details of the interchange process, where containers go from truck to truck to ship or train and any other imaginable combination
- Use of mainline and feeder vessels
- The surplus and shortage of TEU's and FEU's
- Van carriers and other terminal vehicles and machinery

Next stop, C. Steinweg Terminal. This terminal and storage facility is different from a conventional container terminal. While they do carry and transport regular containers, their specialty is break-bulk cargo and heavy lift cargo operations. I quite enjoyed C. Steinweg and learning about its unique services. I found visiting this terminal highly educative in global products and trade.

It had multiple large warehouses with contents ranging from fresh cocoa, steel coils, raw coffee beans from Brazil to securing and lashing equipment and more. One of the most fascinating warehouses was one full of copper. I forgot the exact numbers, but this room stored hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of copper, that represented copper being traded in the stock exchange. This was such a neat experience and provided a frame of reference for real world trading. One can go on their phone or turn on the TV and see the stocks for commodities like gold, copper, silver and oil and all that can be seen is a green or red arrow with a number attached to it pointing up or down. Being able to see all the copper and what it represented made something that is normally only seen from a screen, tangible. .

I learned that receiving coffee beans before being roasted was very important for cost reasons because once they are roasted, heavy import duties apply as it becomes a refined product. I hugely appreciated this opportunity to visit the C. Steinweg terminal. It allowed me and my fellow students to grasp gigantic volumes of cargo in many forms and learn about how it is stored, and transported, where it comes from and the quality control process that takes place. They had a few massive cranes that were very cool too!

We rendezvoused with our stellar tour guides Stephan and Lena! Our tour on-foot began at the *Oberhafenkantine* – a very crooked building. It had a quaint charm to it. We made our way to the city center of Hamburg. On our way we made stops at important historical areas. One of the first was the *Hannoversche Bahnhof* station. What remained of this train station had become a memorial for the deportees from the Second World War. It is a reminder of darker times of history as Stephan explained its relevance to modern day Germany. We discussed a bit of Canada's own dark history and the importance for young people to be educated in such events.

If Stephan had told us he was a full-time tour guide for people travelling to Hamburg, all of us would have believed him without question. He has exceptional local knowledge and was able to answer just about any and every question we could throw at him.

We viewed Hamburg's main churches, St. Jacobi, St. Katharinen, St. Michaelis, St. Petri, and the Church of St. Nicolas. The architecture was nothing short of amazing with beautiful spires and brick structure with strong reds, shades of green and gold. The church that stood out the most for me was the St. Nicolas church. It was the remaining structure of the church that had been missed by bombs but where anything able to burn was consumed by fire. Although the church was incomplete by destruction, its gothic, and ominous look provided an intense feeling. The principle of leaving the church is to have a reminder for the German people of the grim events that took place during World War two. Rather than erasing history, it has been left to see what remains of its beauty. It is a memorial for the people of Hamburg that were victims of tyranny and a reminder for local people and tourists alike of what evil can befall a city under corrupt reign.

After visiting and learning about some of the landmarks and areas in the downtown area we decided to stop for some food. I enjoyed Bier and *Schnitzel*. Both things I have indulged in many times before but not in Germany!

The following day we joined Lena's class to take part in their barge training. We were able to experience what the port-boat men and women students do for the practical portion of their school program. I think this form of training is a fantastic way to prepare students for their line of work and gain some very useful skills. Skills not only are directly related to their future job but unique skills involving communication, teamwork and motor skills that can help in everyday life.

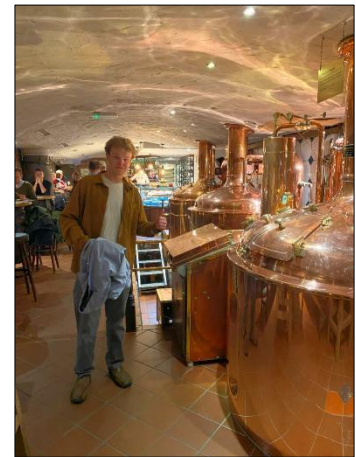


For the students training exercises they would tie the barge onto the ponton, communicating with the captain, tying and untying lines, driving the barge away from the other pontons to an area they could turn around and then repeat the process until each student had taken a turn tying and untying the ponton from the barge and being the captain. It took a little time and a couple questions for clarification to understand that in the port of Hamburg the harbour boat that they drive around is referred to as a barge. Here in Halifax what we call a barge is what they call a ponton. Lena and the other students were happy to answer all questions and give some translations on some nautical terms in the German language for us. Their instructors were kind and accommodating as well, making their best efforts for us to learn and answer our questions even with a language barrier.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the students, and I was able to compare and contrast their training with my program at the Strait Area Nautical Institute. I firmly believe the system of having more practical, hands-on learning is extremely beneficial for students.

We made our way back to the school to have a lovely lunch in the cafeteria and meet some more faculty. I was able to meet some of the other students as well, which I really enjoyed. Henry, a second-year student, was kind enough to introduce himself. He invited me outside to meet some of his friends and ask me some questions about myself. I really appreciated his kindness and efforts to make me feel welcome.

Later that evening we met Christian and Stephan at Gröninger Brewery. This is one of Hamburg's oldest breweries, nearly 400 years old. We had some traditional German dishes. I tested my abilities to consume a lot of food that night. I had some great beer and terrific conversations too. I talked with Gero, another second-year student who joined us for dinner. We discussed several topics about the world and his involvement and passion for a career in the marine industry. We all had a very lovely time at the restaurant.



Halfway into our trip, Wednesday, we travelled to Helgoland! Helgoland is a small Island 46 kilometers off the German coastline. This was one of my favorite days of the trip for a multitude of reasons. It was very educational and incredibly fun despite having some self-inflicted brain fog as a result from the night before.

We met the entire second year class on the *Landungsbrücken* pier to board the highspeed catamaran vessel to take us to Helgoland. The vessel was called the Halunder Jet. It used four powerful water jet engines with nearly 360-degree articulation. These engines allowed the vessel to cruise to a maximum speed of 36knots.

We were lucky enough to visit the bridge of the vessel on our journey and talk to the captain. I was able to ask questions about the vessel's navigation equipment and what it's like traversing the river Elbe. The catamaran was very impressive with an exceptional ability to change course and speed with ease. I was also able to discuss the captain's personal process of getting to his position and what that process was like in Germany. Being able to talk to someone from a different country and their process of getting into the marine industry and achieving one of the highest positions of seafaring was exceptionally valuable because this industry is broad and one of international proportions. It was very beneficial to hear about the process that they undergo relative to our own.

During the trip there I was fortunate enough to spend time with the students and play some card games, share a lot of laughter and get to know them. Being a social person, I was truly grateful and thankful of this time spent. I felt very welcome. If there was a lot of conversation in German, someone was always willing to give me a quick translation and explanation to the conversation, so I never felt left out.



We made it to Helgoland. Before embarking on our journey around the beautiful island we gathered outside the front of the boat on the dock for a group photo. Then our small group from our nautical institute had an awesome tour inside the Halunder Jet. We visited the engine room and machinery spaces. It was exceptionally clean. The engineer explained the unique propulsion system and its many capabilities. The Halunder Jet is run entirely with unmanned machinery spaces. Meaning, the engineer can monitor the function of the vessel from the bridge and does not have to stay in the engine room. In the event one of the vessel's engines fail, it can operate completely fine with three or even two engines. It was an honor to be able to see such an advanced vessel up close.



We were now able to walk around Helgoland! This was such a neat little island. It reminded me of some places here in the Maritime's with its colorful waterfront area and little maritime themed kiosks and hilly landscape. It had a very picturesque fairy-tale like feel. It was something out of a story book. We climbed to the top of the hill on Helgoland where we could overlook the whole island and the North Sea. The weather was incredible this day. The rock faces and geography of this charming island were breathtaking. It was also home to hundreds, maybe thousands of gannets and other birds.

I had stopped fiddling with my film camera and found myself separated from the group which was quite alright. I knew nobody was too far! It gave me an opportunity to wander on my own accord and take it all in. I slowly made my way to the waterfront which was bountiful in small shops. I had stopped to purchase a couple souvenirs along the way which let me practice my German which is rather poor. Everyone I encountered was wonderfully pleasant. I found a camera store where I was able to replenish my camera film. By a stroke of serendipity I ran into the group of students I had spent time with on the ferry. They invited me to stop for some food. We had some lovely pizza, some beverages and soaked up the sun and got to know one another a little better. I felt very lucky, comfortable and thankful to have befriended the students.

We made our way back to the boat and travelled back to Hamburg, I took a much-needed nap on the ride back down the river Elbe.

Our second last day before travelling had come. That Thursday we were accompanied by the students from BS27 that would be visiting Nova Scotia to see their workplaces. Julian, Benjamin, Sarah, Oguzhan and Lea. Kindly, they met us early in the morning at the *Landungsbrücken* pier again to start our day. The students were very kind and accommodating.



First we visited the Hadag ferries where Benjamin and Julian work. They took us in multiple ferries and explained what their role is currently as students and what they will do when they graduate as Port-boat men. They took us to the engine and control rooms and bridges and explained the different components of the boats and the routes they take in the harbour. They explained the history of some of the older boats as well as some of the newer models, one being fully electric and using a unique propulsion system the Voith Schneider.

Some of the boats were more specific to transportation where other boats would be for events, tourists and parties.

We made our way to the river Alster to take a tour and learn about the river boats where Oguzhan, Sarah and Lea work. This tour was a significant highlight of my trip. We boarded the long and narrow river boats, and our tour began. We were accompanied by an employee of the river boats, I cannot remember his name, but he had a beard and was heavier set. He was exceptionally nice. We spent a lot of time having some great conversations on the boat ride. Shortly after leaving the dock by disconnecting the big magnets which held us in place, I was offered the opportunity to steer the boat! I had an absolute blast doing this. It had a comically large wheel for steering. The boat was quite responsive and easy to steer despite its unique design. The students were very encouraging and told us all about the river Alster and the work they do on it. They made sure we were comfortable the entire time. After, we enjoyed a lovely meal seated along the river where we saw one of the students cruise by working on the river boat. That night we took a night tour of the harbour with Lea and a student that had travelled to Nova Scotia the year prior. Even at night the harbour was very busy. We went by the massive container ships from the water which really showed us their gargantuan size. The relaxing tour was an excellent way to end our day.



This brought us to our final day, which happened to be Hamburg's *Hafengeburtstag*, Harbour Birthday. Our day started with a visit to the German Harbour Museum and a private tour of the Peking tall ship at Shed 50A. This museum building was around 100 years old and housed many artifacts, small harbour ships, dioramas, heavy equipment and ship components. I personally love museums and old things. I really loved seeing all that it had to offer and seeing the history of the very large, busy and integral port of Hamburg. We climbed aboard one of the

flying P-Liners, the Peking. It is the only remaining ship of the flying P-Liners. It was used as a cargo vessel in the early 20th century and later used as a training ship before being decommissioned and used as a museum piece in New York. It was purchased for one dollar and returned to Hamburg where it was restored. It was a marvel of engineering capability and ship building of its era with its sheer size and beauty.

Later on we went back to St. Pauli to take part in the *Hafengeburtstag* and view the parade of vessels go down the harbour. This was an exceptional experience and reminded me of the tall ship parades that used to take place in Halifax. The waterfront was packed with likely tens of thousands of people enjoying the hot sun and celebrating the harbours birthday. I had never experienced an event like this with such a large volume of people. It was awesome. After watching the ships go by, we enjoyed some beverages and then visited the *Elbphilharmonie* or, *Elbphi* for short. This was an extraordinary building with its one-of-a-kind design and architecture. Apparently, we had to go see it otherwise we were never really in Hamburg.

Although it was still early in the evening, we decided our day was complete. We were all quite exhausted from the week and the heat. We made our way back to the hotel. Not without taking a quick walk down the Reeperbahn though! Another staple of Hamburg.

This concluded the journey in Hamburg.

What I believe made this trip so positive and invaluable from an educational viewpoint is that it provided insight into the same industry I will be working in. The difference being, it is the side of the industry that we spend very little or no time learning about due to the nature of my program. I am learning to work on ships and how to navigate them. BS27 teaches what takes place once the ship reaches the berth or quay. This is an exception of the program for the fantastic Port boat men and women. Being relatively similar to the program I am in.

I think not only as an aspiring seafarer but a human contributing to the economic growth of my country and the world, gaining knowledge about the side of the logistics of the maritime industry can help me understand how products move about and what's involved in the transportation of 90% of the world's goods. I could not have asked for a better place to learn or better hosts, and I always felt safe.

This trip was an eye-opening experience. It is hard to put into words what it meant for me. The students, especially the ones that travelled here to Nova Scotia, Julian, Benjamin, Sarah, Lea, and Oguzhan (despite Oguzhan not being able to come) made an everlasting impression on me and I hope to stay in touch with them for the foreseeable future. I look forward to returning to Hamburg and visiting the rest of Germany too. A place I have wanted to visit since a young age. There is a running joke that Canadian's are the friendliest people out there, but I found the people of Hamburg to be just as friendly as us Canadians. From the fabulously functioning public transport to the marvelous architecture and the busy, beautiful, river Elbe it was a very special, unforgettable trip. And of course, the *Bier*, I cannot forget to mention the *Bier*. It was great.

Best regards, Graham MacNeil

Visit of the BS27 group to Nova Scotia – May 2025

- 11.05. – 16.05.2025 School of Fisheries, Shelburne

BS 27 Student Visit 2025

Sunday May 11	Monday May 12	Tuesday May 13	Wednesday May 14	Thursday May 15	Friday May 16
Travel from Halifax to Shelburne	9am- meet at the Campus. Greetings & introductions. Tour of Campus. 11am- Tour of Shelburne waterfront	Fisherman's Market tour Ingomar	Lunenburg Harbour tour	Lobster Fishing with some of our local fishermen	Travel from Shelburne to Port Hawkesbury
	Lunch				
	Fishing Simulator	Historical Acadian Village of Nova Scotia Pubnico https://levillage.novascotia.ca/ Pubnico fishing waterfront tour Suggested supper option - Dennis Point Restaurant Pubnico	Walk the Lunenburg waterfront	Black Loyalist Heritage Centre Closing dinner at Sandy Point Community Centre if available , Campus will pay	

- 16.05. – 23.05.2025 Nautical Institute, Port Hawkesbury

TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1 – Monday, May 19

Time	Location	Activity
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Main Campus - Theater	Welcome Presentation with Student Services. Morning refreshments provided
9:30 - 10:30 AM	Fire School	Safety Briefing and Building Tour
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Fire School	Break – Refreshments provided
10:45 – 12:00PM	Fire School	Practical Fire Fighting Exercises including Breathing Apparatus Exercises
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break	Lunch Provided
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Ocean Innovation Centre	Practical Exercises with Lifeboats and FRC

Day 2 – Tuesday, May 20

Time	Location	Activity
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Main Campus	Building Tour
9:30 AM – 12:00PM	Main Campus – Wave Tank	Practical Pool Exercises
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch - Main Campus	Lunch Provided
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Main Campus	Simulator Tour (Navigation & Engineering)
2:00 – 4:00 PM	Main Campus, Room 348	Indigenous Activity with Elder

Day 3 – Wednesday, May 21

Time	Location	Activity
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Departure from Campus to Northumberland Ferries	Vessel Tour and Crossing *departure time may change due to ferry schedule
5:30 PM	The Cove Restaurant	Dinner reservation
8:00 PM	Return to Campus Housing	

Day 4 – Thursday, May 22

Time	Location	Activity
8:30 – 11:30 AM	Departure from Campus to EverWind	Facility Tour
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Travel to Friends United	Lunch Provided at Friends United
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Friends United	Tour

Travel report – Andrea Kröger

After visiting the Canadian group in Hamburg, we were scheduled to fly to Halifax the day after their departure. Unfortunately, it turned out at the last minute that only five of us would be traveling to Canada, as our sixth member didn't receive an electronic entry permit.

11.05.2025



The first challenges awaited us at Hamburg Airport: printing our boarding passes and checking in our luggage ourselves. After a stopover in Frankfurt, we finally crossed the pond. Unlike the Canadians, whose flight had been delayed four hours the day before, we even arrived 20 minutes earlier than planned. Things got exciting again at the immigration office in Canada. With the help of a machine that interviewed us and took a few nice photos of us, we were allowed to enter the country as a group. After collecting our suitcases, Graham was already waiting for us to welcome us to the country and provide us with delicious provisions for the final leg. This last leg of the journey was a particular challenge for me personally, as our rental car had an automatic

transmission. With the guidance of the students, I managed to start the Chrysler relatively quickly, and with every kilometer, the temptation to use the clutch diminished somewhat. Shortly after 10:00 p.m., we finally reached our destination, the Wildwood Motel in Shelburne.

12.05.2025

The next day, after breakfast at Tim Hortons, we headed to the NSCC campus, where we were warmly welcomed by all the college staff.

Over coffee, Duane Dakin and Joe Grandy told us about the college's program. Joe then led us on a campus tour. After dinner at Scotia Lunch, we met up with Susan and Tammie in the historic part of Shelburne on the waterfront. Susan gave us a captivating insight into Shelburne's history. We also had the opportunity to visit Shelburne's various museums, including the Dory Shop Museum, where traditional boats are still made.





13.05.2025

We met up with Joe again at the NSCC, where we first got ready for the day with a coffee. From there, we went to the Fisherman's Market in Ingomar, where the lobsters caught in the area are stored and prepared for shipping.

During a stop at Dennis Point Wharf, we saw countless fishing boats at anchor and enjoyed a delicious, typical fish meal.



In the afternoon, a tour of the Black Loyalist Heritage Center gave us insights into the hard life of Black Loyalists, former slaves who received land from the English after the Revolutionary War in the USA.

Here, we saw the so-called red dresses for the first time—but not the last—each representing a missing or murdered Indigenous woman.

Later, we had time to explore Shelburne on foot.



14.05.2025

After an early meeting at the college, we equipped ourselves with lifeguards and headed to Shelburne Harbor, where Liam was waiting for us on his lobster boat. In perfect weather, we then headed out to the lobster traps. The lobster traps are marked with buoys of different colors, depending on their owner. The buoys are grabbed from the boat using a long pole, the corresponding rope is placed on a winch, and the cages are pulled aboard. Rubber bands are placed around the lobsters' claws.

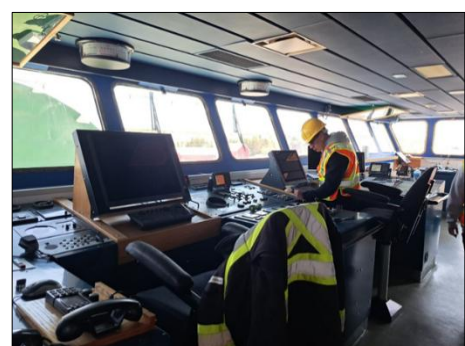


Afterwards, three volunteers jumped into the water wearing life jackets and had to be "rescued." Exercises of this kind are supposed to be conducted regularly by ship crews.

After this practical exercise, we had the opportunity at the college to practice steering a fishing boat in New York Harbor on a simulator.



After a quick lunch, we headed to the Shelburn shipyard, where the Grand Manan V Ferry was in dry dock. We were able to inspect it not only from below, but also from inside—including the bridge and, of course, the engine room.



15.05.2025

The next day, we followed Joe to Lunenburg. There, we had the opportunity to visit the Fishing Museum. Although the official opening wasn't scheduled until the following week, at the start of the tourist season, many employees were already on site to prepare and were able to provide us with detailed information about the individual exhibits on the topics of marine life, fishing, and the famous Bluenose.



After a short walk along the waterfront and a drive through the town, it was unfortunately already time to head back, as we were invited to a lobster dinner at the community center in the evening.



16.05.2025

The next morning, with a heavy heart, we said goodbye to Joe and Shelburne and set off for Port Hawkesbury.

Our first stop was at the lighthouse at Peggy's Cove, where we met up with Graham again. Unfortunately, the weather had worsened, so we could only guess at the view through the fog. The warning signs, warning visitors regularly slip off the rocks and fall into the sea, beyond rescue, made it all the more urgent.

Our next stop was in Halifax, where part of the group said goodbye in search of a Wendy's. The rest of us explored the harborfront.

At the campus in Port Hawkesbury, Kim was waiting for us with the keys to our dorm.

We ended the day with a quick trip into town to Walmart and Pizza Hut.

17.05.2025

Since there was no official program scheduled for the weekend, Kim met us on campus and took us to Miller's Seafood and Chophouse, where we enjoyed a typical Canadian breakfast of waffles and maple syrup. While we were eating, she was able to give us some tips on what to see in the area.

In a small group, we set off by car to Egypt Falls in the afternoon, where both the approach and the destination were scenically impressive.

18.05.2025

Unfortunately, due to the bad weather, it made little sense to set off with Steven Baxter on the planned trip to Baddeck. Instead, he used the time to show us around the college. We were given a detailed look at the machine shop and a first impression of the navigation simulator, which, unlike the one in Shelburne, allows several different ships to be operated simultaneously and interact with each other.



19.05.2025

Despite the Canadian holiday, Aaron and his team were waiting for us at the fire school. There, everyone received a theoretical safety briefing. Then, they were shown how to put on the oxygen cylinder and protective gear. After a coffee break with doughnuts, things got serious. First, two at a time, they were to extinguish a fire in the galley, then, in a group of three, one in the engine room.

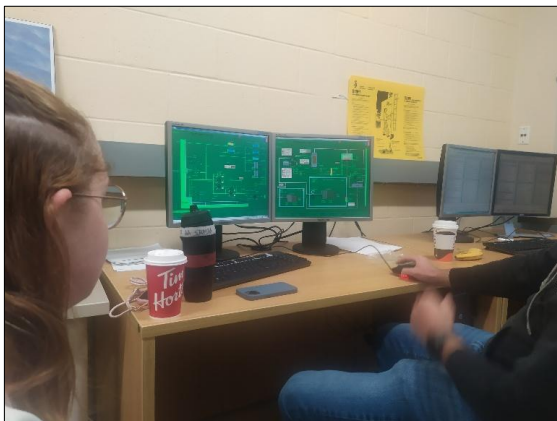


After lunch, we met at the water's edge. There, we received another theoretical briefing—this time on how the system for lowering the escape capsules works. We were then equipped with life jackets and allowed to board the escape capsule. Once inside, we were instructed to remove the vests and fasten ourselves securely in the seats. Before the escape capsule could be lowered, the engine had to be tested. When it didn't start, it briefly looked as if our adventure would be canceled, but luckily, the problem was solved with a few well-aimed hammer blows. Then our Captain Benjamin only had to release the escape capsule from its hook with a few pumping movements, and the capsule fell several meters into the water in free fall. After a short tour, the experts took over, and the capsule was able to dock safely again.



Additionally equipped with helmets and gloves, we then boarded the lifeboats.

20.05.2025



We had originally planned to train in the Wave Tank this morning. However, it quickly became apparent that the chlorine content was too high. So we spontaneously ended up in the engine room simulator, which Alex explained to us in detail. While we relaxed and tried to solve the given problems ourselves, some future machinists were taking their exams in the next room. After a quick shopping stop at the college bookstore, where we stocked up on souvenirs, we headed into town for lunch.



In the afternoon, the students completed tasks on the navigation simulator. First, the students were tasked with clearing the way for three cargo ships in Halifax Harbor using icebreakers. Each student had a simulator, each controlling an icebreaker. Afterward, Steven staged a "last

one floating" in New York Harbor, in which they attempted to ram and sink each other with Coast Guard vessels and then be the last ship standing.

21.05.2025

The next morning, Kim picked us up at the college, from where we headed to the Caribou Ferry Terminal. There, we met Stephen, Alex, and Graham. In perfect weather, we were able to take the ferry to Prince Edward Island. On the island, however, we only disembarked briefly, using the layover time to inspect the ferry, especially the engine room.



On the way back we stopped at The Cove, where the NSCC invited us to a delicious meal with a great view.

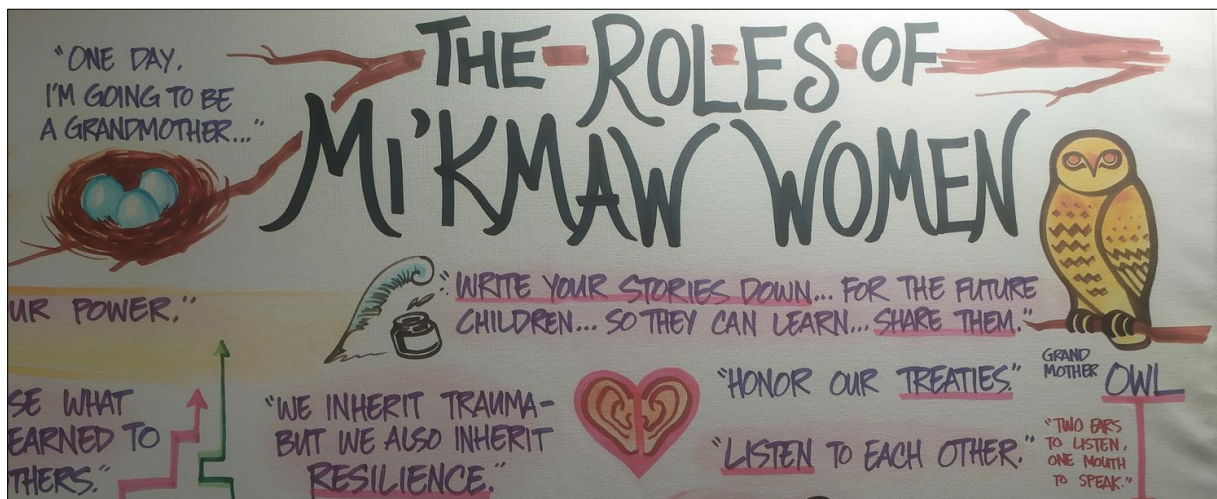
22.05.2025

On our last day, we had an appointment at the nearby EverWind company. After a detailed presentation on current operations and the planned restructuring, Managing Director David Hart showed us the extensive company premises on a van tour. EverWind currently operates as an oil storage facility. The oil is delivered from the USA by tanker and picked up again.



The goal, however, is to produce green hydrogen for the European market. The electricity for converting hydrogen will be generated by wind turbines (onshore and offshore). The required water will be taken from a nearby lake, but this is viewed critically by the local population, who fear that this will deplete their drinking water supplies.

After lunch at the college, where a project competition for high school students was taking place at the time, we went to Friends United, founded by German emigrant Rolf Bouman. There, Rolf Bouman gave us a detailed introduction to the project's origins and then we were able to admire the many impressive works of indigenous artist.



23.05.2025

After saying goodbye to Kim, we hit the road again early in the morning, as we wanted to see more of Halifax before our departure. This time, we parked the car in the Dartmouth district and took the ferry to the waterfront. There, we first visited the Nautical Museum, which, among other things, featured a Titanic exhibition.

Before we crossed back to Dartmouth, we received the news that our flight would be delayed by two hours. However, since we had to return the car at 5:00 p.m., this unfortunately didn't buy us any extra time in Halifax. Ultimately, we missed the connecting flight from Frankfurt on Saturday, May 24th, which we had already rebooked in Halifax, and arrived in Hamburg three hours late, full of countless new impressions.

Personal conclusion

It was a special experience for all the passengers to experience the friendliness and hospitality of the Canadians. We received a very warm welcome, and the Canadian students, who had previously been in Hamburg, in particular, went to great lengths to ensure our stay in their country was a positive one.

Our students also showed their best side, participating with interest and openness in the program. I was particularly pleased to witness how a student who was rather weak in language skills gradually gained more and more confidence over the course of the trip and became increasingly confident in using her English.

As a language teacher, it was great to be exposed to the language so intensively again, especially the nautical vocabulary. Furthermore, as a teacher with no previous experience in the harbor boatmen profession, it was a good opportunity for me to expand my knowledge of ships and the harbor through the various program activities, as well as to learn more about the harbor boatmen's profession and its responsibilities and challenges from the trainees who were on board. Not least through the informal interaction with the students, whom I do not teach myself in this case, I have gained insight into the problems of students with ADHD, particularly from a person who was traveling with me, which I hope can benefit me in my own teaching.



Personal logbook: Cadet Lea Wolters

Location: Home Planet, Germany – en route to Outpost Shelburne, Sector Nova Scotia, Canada – Week 1

Stardate 11.05

Mission status: Transport

After an intercontinental spaceflight that concluded in the capital city of Halifax, I was transferred under terrestrial conditions via land vehicle to Outpost “Shelburne.” Arrival took place during a time phase rather unfavorable for humanoids: the middle of the night. The time shift (minus 5 hours) only made itself truly felt the next day.



Stardate 12.05

Operation: Cultural Exploration – Successfully Initiated

Already on the first morning, there was a first encounter with local fauna – a herd of deer greeted us in front of our quarters. Fortunately, first contact was peaceful, and they visited us more frequently as our stay progressed.

Our first food intake followed local customs at an establishment known as Tim Hortons, evidently a revered hub for caffeine and sugar intake.

Afterward, we toured a higher educational institution – referred to as a “university,” specifically the NSCC Shelburne Campus School of Fisheries, which included a full briefing.

The remainder of the day was devoted to cultural orientation: we walked through Shelburne’s harbor, visited the Dory Museum, documenting historical watercraft, and gained initial insights into the colonial history of the sector.

Stardate 13.05

Operation: Maritime Insights

The second mission day focused entirely on the exploration of marine economy and fauna. We gained access to lobster fishing operations and received detailed information about the species after extraction from the ocean. The complexity of post-harvest logistics was impressive.



Further explorations led us to Dennis Point Wharf – a key local harbor – and the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre, which sheds light on the sector’s African-Canadian history. Remarkable: the museum’s commitment to making historic inequality visible.

Stardate 14.05**Operation: Lobster Heroine**

Day three intensified the mission's practical component. We caught lobsters ourselves, secured their claws with elastic restraints, and conducted safety drills in the water. This included immersion in the cold Atlantic wearing a so-called "survival suit" – part protective test, part courage trial, as we jumped from the deck of a fishing vessel.



A highlight: the trial run in the ship simulator. Navigation was demanding, but manageable. A shipyard visit and inspection of a ferry undergoing repairs completed the technical picture.

Evening mission: first attempts at cooking lobster. Result: not poisonous – but room for improvement.

Stardate 15.05**Operation: Departure from Dock**

On the fourth day, we traveled to picturesque Lunenburg, a UNESCO-protected outpost with strong maritime traditions. At the Maritime Museum, I completed basic training in rigging and splicing – rope techniques potentially useful in Starfleet operations. We also inspected the town's historic school.

In the evening, all participants gathered for a closing ceremony at Sandy Point, a location with high social density, culinary resources, and scenic views. Memories, photos, and contact data were exchanged in accordance with protocol.

Personal conclusion – Week 1:

The Canadians of the Shelburne sector display extraordinary hospitality, a dry sense of humor, and impressive calm in the face of natural forces. I not only expanded my practical skills but also strengthened my intercultural resilience.

To be continued.

Logbook temporarily closed.

👉 Cadet Lea Wolters, Starfleet Academy BS27

Personal Logbook: Cadet Lea Wolters

Location: Outpost Shelburne, Sector Nova Scotia, Canada – en route to the second phase of our exploration mission: Port Hawkesbury Sector, Nova Scotia – Week 2

Stardate 16.05

Mission Progress: Phase II – Port Hawkesbury Initiated

After successful completion of Phase I in Shelburne, the exchange crew was transferred via shuttle (land vehicle) to the Port Hawkesbury sector. The journey included two tactical layovers:

1. Peggy's Cove, a legendary lighthouse post in dense fog – mystical, windy, and photogenic.
2. A supply break and exploration of Halifax Harbourfront, where essential food resources were acquired (tactical term: lunch).

Arrival in Port Hawkesbury in the evening, with successful establishment of quarters – slight culture shock: no deer outside the door. In return: clean rooms and new allies.

Stardate 17.05

Mission: Egypt Falls

The first local away mission led me and a senior officer (alias Frau Kröger) to a remote natural phenomenon: Egypt Falls. The path required moderate physical endurance but rewarded us with a view that no Holodeck could simulate better. The sound of the waterfall resembled engineering room noise – only more pleasant.

Stardate 18.05

Operation: Engineering & Tactics

Visit to a new technical training outpost “university,” aka NSCC Port Hawkesbury Nautical Institute, equipped with various training modules: scientific labs, engineering workshops, and Holodeck-style ship simulators.

Evening: a social mission – integration into a Canadian billiard bar with local cadets. Beverages were exchanged, and cultural boundaries were overcome. First contact successful.

Stardate 19.05

Operation: Fire, Water, Adrenaline

High-level training: we entered a fire simulation house, completed several trial runs, and documented it all with a heroic group photo.

Next, lifeboat training – crash into the water, test drive, docking, and disembarkation (exit only after impact). This was followed by a high-speed boat ride – velocity unknown, thrill level high.

Evening: further nature-based exploration mission to another waterfall – it's evident that Canadians lead the galaxy in natural accessibility.

Stardate 20.05

Operation: Engine Diagnostics & Tactical Maneuvers

Morning: diagnostics training in the engine simulator, problem detection and resolution, quickly achieved with the support of an engineering cadet.

Afternoon: icebreaker mission in the ship simulator. Our crew plowed through ice in orderly formation for the ships behind us. The second part of the simulation: a tactical exercise titled “Battleship.”

I initially withdrew to let others eliminate each other, only to have them conspire against me – but a desperate final move secured my victory.

Stardate 21.05

Grand Mission: Ferry Operations

Full-day excursion on a Canadian ferry. Bridge tour, engine room inspection, and interaction with the ship’s crew. The term “engine noise” was redefined.

Evening: emotional farewell dinner with a view of the Port Hawkesbury dam. Conversations grew quieter, gazes lingered longer – the end was near.

Stardate 22.05

Final Away Mission: Cultural Heritage

Visit to the Friends United International Convention Centre, home to artwork, totem poles, and handmade objects of Canada’s Indigenous peoples – expressive, historically significant, and spiritually profound. A moment of reflection between technical training sessions. The dignity and history of this land were truly palpable.

Stardate 23.05

Mission: Return Flight to Home Planet (Germany)

Before departure, a final exploration of Halifax:

- Ferry ride
- Visit to the Maritime Museum and Titanic exhibit
- Lunch with a view
- Then transfer to the spaceport – sorry, airport – and return to home territory.

Final Mission Report – Canada

The exchange mission fulfilled all objectives:

- Intercultural competence enhanced
- Technical and historical knowledge expanded
- Social alliances forged
- Personal limits tested and surpassed

Emotional Status: Nostalgia and gratitude.

The cadet returns home – changed, strengthened, and with a heart that now holds a piece of Canada.

Logbook closed.

👋 Cadet Lea Wolters, Starfleet Academy BS27

My Exchange to Canada - An Unforgettable Trip - First Impression

On May 11th, a special adventure began for me: I was able to travel to Canada with a small group of trainees. We were warmly greeted at the airport by a Canadian who welcomed us. Afterwards, we drove to the hotel in Shelburne with our teacher. On the way, I saw colorful wooden houses and dense forests.

The very next morning, we had breakfast at Tim Hortons, as commonplace for Canadians as the bakery on the corner is for us. I ordered a vanilla latte, which I enjoyed so much that I drank it almost every day. I took in the surroundings: quiet streets, colorful houses, and lots of nature. Small Canadian flags flew everywhere, even on mailboxes and boats. The city seemed small, friendly, and slow-paced, quite different from what I'm used to in Hamburg.



Shelburne

So much happened in Shelburne that I don't even know where to begin. Every day was special, with encounters, impressions, or small moments that have remained etched in my memory. Instead of listing individual highlights, I hope this text conveys the special atmosphere of those days.

Shelburne is a town with a long fishing tradition. I attended the local fishing school and learned a lot about the importance of this profession for the region. Lobster fishing with a local fisherman was also on the agenda, and we were able to help out. It was physically demanding but very exciting. In the evening, the other trainees cooked the lobster. However, I quickly realized that it was morally difficult for me to throw a living animal into the pot. So I opted for a ready-made dinner from the Canadian supermarket Sobeys.

I visited the Dory Shop Museum, where traditional wooden boats, called dories, formerly used in deep-sea fishing, are still built today. I was particularly fascinated by the construction method: The boatbuilders deliberately selected wood with a natural curve, especially at the transitions between the bottom and the sides. This not only makes the boats more stable, but also uniquely beautiful.

A member of the Historical Society guided me through Shelburne and showed me many old buildings. I was particularly impressed by the fact that Shelburne is located on the traditional land of the Mi'kmaq, a reference to the region's complex past.

The history of the Black Loyalists was also discussed: Black refugees who came to Nova Scotia in the 18th century in search of freedom. Many settled in Shelburne, but instead of equal rights, they experienced new forms of exclusion.

In a shipyard, I was able to see the Grand Manan V, a large passenger ship in dry dock, up close. An employee showed us tools and particularly praised German craftsmanship. Typical German dishes like apple strudel and rouladen are also appreciated in Canada, which, to be honest, made me a little proud. I also particularly enjoyed the regional specialty, seafood chowder with scallops.

On the last day, we had a communal dinner at the Sandy Point Lighthouse Community Centre, organized by the Shelburne Community Campus. Lobster was served as a creamed lobster dinner. The atmosphere was warm, the food delicious, a perfect end to an unforgettable week in Shelburne.

Lunenburg

In Lunenburg, I visited the Fishing Museum. I saw historical equipment, learned more about the development of fishing, and deepened my knowledge of the Mi'kmaq people. I was particularly excited to learn that Lunenburg was co-founded by German settlers in the 18th century - an unexpected moment to encounter traces of German history so far from home.

Port Hawkesbury

In Port Hawkesbury, I stayed in the Nova Scotia Community College dormitory. The accommodation was simple but practical, a good base for my explorations. One day, I was able to ride a speedboat. The ride was fast, loud, and full of adrenaline.

Another time, I visited Miller's Restaurant, considered one of the best restaurants in town. There, I tried poutine for the first time: fries with gravy and cheese curds. An unusual combination, but truly delicious. A particularly nice walk along a small path right by the water, not far from campus, was a relaxing way to walk to the supermarket or simply take a walk in nature without having to worry about traffic. For me, Port Hawkesbury was a place to breathe fresh air, friendly, open, and ideal for hiking or unwinding.

A special experience was the visit to the Friends United Centre. Many of the works on display are by artists of Mi'kmaq background. The centre is a place of remembrance, storytelling, and healing, full of meaning and soul. The Mi'kmaq particularly touched me. They are among Canada's oldest Indigenous peoples. Their history, language, and spirituality continue to shape the region today. Their way of life was closely aligned with the rhythms of nature. The Mi'kmaq remind us that true strength often lies in quiet, constant dialogue with nature. It is encouraging to see that the knowledge and perspectives that were once ignored or suppressed are finally being recognized as valuable.

Looking Back

This trip was more than just an excursion for me; it was a moving experience. Many impressions touched me and broadened my perspective. I learned a lot about Canada, about other cultures, and about myself.

The importance of fishing, in particular, made me reflect. I realized how much we depend on nature and how delicate this balance is. Fishing makes this dependence tangible. The Mi'kmaq also showed me how much respect, responsibility, and gratitude can go into a sustainable approach to nature. What I learned in Nova Scotia will stay with me for a long time to come.

Travel report Canada – Benjamin Sytschewski

11.06.

Arrival in Canada. From the airport we drove towards Shelburne, and after a tiring journey we finally arrived.

12.06.

We drove to the NSCC, where we were welcomed by Tammie and Papa Joe. They gave us a tour of the college, showed us the rooms, and explained what they teach there. They also told us that they also train for other professions – such as nursing.



Papa Joe led us into a room with a simulator. He turned it on especially for us so we could get a glimpse of what to expect in Port Hawkesbury.

Afterwards, we drove to the Shelburne waterfront and took a guided tour, where we learned a lot about the town's history. A particularly fascinating visit was a workshop where traditional fishing boats, called "dories," are still built for traditional reasons. In the past, these boats were launched from larger ships into the open sea to fish for cod. The dories have a tapered hull, a flat bottom, and are made of wood.



We also visited other historic houses, about which we were also told fascinating stories. We used the rest of the day to go shopping.

13.06.

We drove together from school to the Fisherman's Market. There, we were shown what happens to the lobsters after they're caught and what the process is like until they're sold.

Afterwards, we went to dinner together and then drove to the Black Loyalists Museum. There, we learned a lot about the history of the Black, immigrant colonists. The British government at the time had encouraged many of them to come to Canada to help build the country. However, some were deported against their will, and many who came with the hope of a better life were enslaved there.

At the end of the visit, we were taken to their first school and church.

14.06.

Today we were on a lobster boat. There, we were able to pull several lobster traps out of the water – some of them actually had lobsters in them! We were even allowed to take three of them with us.



Afterwards, we put on life jackets and were able to jump into the water. The skipper brought us back on board and then headed out to check the remaining traps.

Meanwhile, we continued on to a shipyard, where we were given a tour. It was particularly exciting to see a ferry that was on a slipway.

That evening, we cooked the lobsters we had caught ourselves.

15.06.

We drove to the town of Lunenburg and visited the Maritime Museum. There, they featured exhibits on the development of shipping, shipbuilding, and aquaculture—as well as a dedicated exhibit on the famous Bluenose.



Joe then guided us through the town and showed us many interesting places worth seeing.

In the evening, the NSCC invited us to dinner. We ate together and said our goodbyes.

16.06.

From Shelburne, we continued on to Port Hawkesbury. Along the way, we stopped at Peggy's Cove, the famous lighthouse, and again in Halifax. Graham joined us there and told us a bit about the city.

When we arrived in Port Hawkesbury, we were greeted by Kim and given the keys to our accommodation—which was significantly better than the previous one.

18.06.

We met Steven Baxter, who gave us a tour of the college—which was significantly larger than the one in Shelburne. We were also given a quick look at the simulator room and the workshop, where students learn how to handle engines, technical equipment, and tools.

Afterwards, we had free time, which we spent with Alex. He had come to the college especially to spend time with us—and stayed by our side throughout the week.

19.06.

Today we went to the Firefighting School. There, we received a short safety course and were shown how to properly use the equipment.

In the first session, we extinguished a fire with a fire extinguisher, and in the second, we fought a simulated kitchen fire.

After we cleaned everything up, we went to the Port Hawkesbury waterfront. There, we were allowed to board a free-fall rescue boat—each of us had a chance to pilot it ourselves.

Back on land, we went to the speedboats. We were allowed to drive them, too, and performed a man overboard maneuver.

20.06.

Today's program unfortunately had to be canceled because the chlorine level in the wave tank was too high.

Instead, we were allowed to use the ship simulator again. Our task was to act as icebreakers and clear a passage for container ships.

Afterward, things got more fun: We were allowed to "ram" each other – and the last one still "swimming" won.

21.06.

Today we took a ferry. We ate together during the crossing.

Once we arrived at the island, we were allowed to stay on board and take a look inside the engine room—which was very exciting.

Immediately afterward, we returned by ferry, and we rounded off the day with dinner together.

22.06.

We visited EverWind's premises. There, we received a presentation about the company, its activities, and its goals.

After the tour, we continued on to Friends United, a community center serving indigenous communities.

The organization aims to raise awareness of the difficult situation faced by many indigenous people and to help those who continue to suffer from the consequences of colonization—particularly in relation to drug and alcohol problems.

23.06.

Return to Germany.

Travel report – Julian Schlette

11.05.2025

We all met at Hamburg Airport in the morning – thus beginning our Canadian adventure. With a stopover in Frankfurt, we landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia, after more than 13 hours. Once we had all our suitcases, we rented a car and drove to our accommodation for the first week. The motel was in Shelburne. After we all had our keys, we fell into bed relatively quickly. The first day of our Canadian adventure was over.

12.05.2025

The second day in Canada – the first day we truly arrived. We started the day with a leisurely breakfast at Tim Hortons. Our first excursion took us to the NSCC, where we were given a tour. I found it very fascinating. The next tour followed immediately – this time through a city museum. I also found this very interesting. There, we learned a lot about the history of dory boats. This day also ended sooner than expected, but it was very informative and educational.



13.05.2025

The next exciting excursion wasn't long in coming. On the third day, we went to a lobster fishing company. It was fascinating to see how lobsters are caught and preserved. Afterwards, we drove to Deming's Point – the local harbor. There, Papa Joe showed us the harbor, and we fortified ourselves with fish and chips. To round off the day, we visited a museum that told us about the history of the Black Loyalists.



14.05.2025

Today, the topic of lobster continued: We were allowed to go out on a fishing boat and haul in the lobster traps ourselves. We were even lucky enough to catch some. When we were offered the chance to take some of the lobsters home with us, we couldn't refuse. We released one of them that evening, and the others ended up on our plates. After the short fishing trip, we were shown the ship simulator. What I didn't know at the time: My amazement would be surpassed in the days to come.

15.05.2025

Day five of the trip. Today we went to a maritime museum in Lunenburg – a town steeped in maritime traditions. We learned a lot about the history there. The Bluenose, one of the old ships, even made it onto a coin. After the museum visit, we explored the town and its historic buildings for a bit. We were served a delicious meal at Sandy Point that evening. Since we were heading to Port Hawkesbury the next day, we said our goodbyes and headed back.

16.05.2025

Today we set off early in the morning – to the north of Nova Scotia, where we planned to spend our second and final week. We stopped in Halifax to recharge our batteries for the rest of the journey. When we arrived in Port Hawkesbury, we had a bit of a day off. In the evening, we ate pizza and wings.

17.05.2025

Today we simply recharged our batteries, did nothing, and enjoyed the time. We explored the area a bit and simply relaxed.

18.05.2025

Today we visited the NSCC in Port Hawkesbury. There were large classrooms, simulators for the engineers, and an even larger ship simulator than the one in Shelburne. I found it very impressive and exciting - that here, you can practice and consolidate your ship-handling skills on simulators.

19.05.2025

I'll probably never forget this day. Today, I was privileged to be a firefighter for the first time in my life. I didn't miss this opportunity and immediately slipped into the designated uniform. Then, with a mask and air supply, I went into a building, where I was able to extinguish a fire – an experience that was very strenuous, but also incredibly wonderful, and one I will remember forever. After this experience, we went out for dinner and ended the day by the water – with a speedboat tour.



20.05.2025

Today we finally got to try out the simulators ourselves. First, we practiced on the engineering simulator, where we were able to solve various problems in the engine room. Then we went to the large ship simulator, where we "sunk" each other—it was almost like "Battleship."

21.05.2025

Now the time is almost up – the day after tomorrow we're going home. But today we took a day trip to an island known for its potatoes and red soil. Unfortunately, we didn't have time for a longer stay, but that wasn't a problem, because we were able to see the ferry from top to bottom. The view was breathtaking – simply beautiful.

22.05.2025

Our last day before departing back to Germany. We visited an exhibition by "Friends United." Many artists depicted the history of Canada's indigenous peoples in their paintings – I found it very fascinating. The exhibition was organized by a German to give us an insight into the history and significance of the place. And that concludes our last day in Canada.

23.05.2025

Today is the day of departure. We drove back to Halifax, where we took another look at the city. Afterward, I headed to the city park to enjoy my last few hours in Canada. But I'm also looking forward to going home. In the evening, we flew back to Hamburg.

Conclusion

I personally learned a lot during my time in Canada and took it with me. From working on a fishing boat to being a mechanic in the engine room, I experienced everything. I was particularly impressed by the huge simulators and the lobster fishing. No matter where we went, we were always welcomed warmly and with open arms. I found the landscape, the nature, the local visits, and the activities beautiful. I would like to do this trip again anytime and am very grateful for this opportunity.





<https://www.nsc.ca/international>

<https://www.nsc.ca/campuses/nautical-institute>

<https://www.nsc.ca/campuses/school-of-fisheries>

<https://bs27-hamburg.de>



<https://www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de/lernen/azubis-usa>

<https://www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de/lehren/foerderung-fuer-schulen-und-berufsschulen/gate>