

Feb 7th 2013

Hi Bill,

just recently, the first weekend in Feb actually, my online course went snow camping in Callaghan Valley. ~~For~~ I decided to tell you about that, seeing as I think you might be interested.

So this adventure started on Sat, Feb 2nd, we - Rachel, Senra, May, Alexandra C, and me - got to brodeur super early.

Mr. 'Côté' drove us and we stopped at Commonwealth to pick up Ben and Isabelle. We took the ferry to Van then stopped at the airport to pick up two kids from Comox, and also stopped at Jules-Verne School to pick up 1 kid. We drove to Horseshoe Bay where we took a water taxi to Camp Potlatch. We stayed there one night.

The boat ride is about 45 min, and when we arrived at camp, we put our stuff in the cabins and then gathered in the hall to go over stuff, like what

we might need. how to light a little stove and how to make a fire in the snow. Our teacher seeing we were being more ready, said we should go outside and play capture the flag.

that game sucked because our side had no Foresty areas, whereas the other side did. And Natasha, one of the camp leader's made us move our flag, so the other team saw where we put it.

AND The other team put their flag on the dock, so there was no way to get it off.

When that was over, we brought all our gear to the main hall, and organized what we were going to bring, and what we weren't. That didn't take long for me, because I was prepared.

I don't remember everything, but we did have dinner, and desert which was ice cream and brownies, and after the teacher split us into three groups.

I was part of the fire making group. It was so hard to make one because everything was wet.

Then when that wasn't working, some of the Brodeur Kids - well yeah some cause a few went for a shower - hung out on the couches inside until Bed time.

On Sunday, we awoke, packed up after

①

break fast, and waited for the water taxi which took us to Britannia. There we boarded a small bus and drove up to the Valley. Snow started appearing!

When we got to the Valley, which is near or part of the Olympic mountains or whatever they call it, we packed up group gear in and on our bags. Like shovels, mats, that morning at camp potlatch we had already packed food and stuff.

We put on our snow shoes (Mine were huge, and were hard to walk in, well heavy so that made it uncomfortable) and hiked the short yet hard distance to our camp ground. There were a lot of hills, and it was hard with bags. When we got there, it was a big snow covered field. The boys got to work right away. My group, Rachel, Sonia and Isabelle decided to bury our bags. So we put tarp down, put our bags on top, and folded the tarp over. Then we started digging snow, piling and packing down snow onto where our bags were. Mark, one of the other leader's came to help us cause we were slow. Okay, so our teacher is Mme Louise Reid, and Mark, Andrew and Natasha came with us. I'm pretty sure they're with Camp Potlatch. ②

Mark helped us and said as girls, we spend too much time talking

about what we're going to do, whereas the boys just do it.

It took us hours. When dinner came around, I had the couscous in my bag, so we started to dig quicker.

After a long time we finally saw the tarp.

I forgot to say what we were building. They're called quinzheas. You pile up snow and make a dome, then at the bottom dig and entrance

look it up  
online!



It then took us longer to finally get out the bags. But we finally did, and the couscous was brought to Madame in time for dinner. That night everyone was cold and wet. There was a little fire but I decided to go to bed. Now boy is it a job to try to set up a bed inside a quinzhee. I was on one of the edges, so whenever I hit the roof, snow fell on me. And it wasn't completely flat so I was on a slant. I also learned never to hold in your pee. It makes you all the colder.

(3)

The Monday, day 2 of snow camping we woke up later and ate breakfast, oatmeal and raisins. We packed day packs cause we

Two people went into our shelter, it was easier if we did it in rounds, then Sonia and I went in. I ate some cookies and got ready for bed. This night was much warmer. And we blocked the entrance with bags.

When you're snow camping, if something gets wet, it never dries.

On Tuesday, we got up and I packed up very quickly. Breakfast was the same, and I had lost my spoon. It was an over load of raisins. We packed up all the tarps, shovels, and mats and attached them to our bags. The hike back was much nicer, mostly downhill, and the girls went first. Ben and Sonia had a competition to see who could bring more stuff.

Pictures are on FaceBook

We got to the bus, unpacked the group gear, gave it back with our snow shoes and packed our bags in the Van. (5)

We got on the bus and it drove us to Jules-verre School. There we got another van, after we dropped the other kids off and got our grades

back. We then went to the ferry. Oh wait! First we brought the two Comox Kids to the Airport.

On the ferry, Sonia and I went outside in the wind and rain, and decided to run from one end of the boat to the other.


Don't know why. We just felt like it. When it docked, we drove to Commonwealth and dropped Ben and Isabelle off. Then we went to Brodeur. Dad picked me up, and we went to Wendy's for nuggets and Fries.

THEN FINALLY HOME!

So glad to sleep in  
a real bed.

(6)

Love

Samantha 

P.S. Sorry for the  
longggggg letter