

**nsc**



## First exchange program in 2024



**Funded by**



Dear Sir or Madam,

This report is intended to give you an overview of the first successfully implemented exchange program between the **Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC)** and the **Berufliche Schule gewerbliche Logistik & Sicherheit (BS27)**<sup>1</sup> in 2024. This is done visually and in writing - whereby I would like to refer in particular to the contributions of the participants, whose impressions are of paramount importance for the institutions involved when it comes to classifying this exchange program as successful.

Before five Canadian and five German trainees - each accompanied by a teacher - were able to visit the respective partner country in May / June 2024, it was necessary to get to know each other and to initiate this then still potential partnership. This path will be presented on a few pages right at the beginning of this report using corresponding publications that were available on our school website.

There are many reasons why the NSCC and BS27 can both look back on a successful exchange program in 2024 and look forward to the future of this partnership. One main reason is the commitment of everyone involved and their invested time and effort in this school partnership project from the very beginning. In many cases this also happened in the background, so I apologize in advance if I do not mention everyone involved by name in this report. But my thanks really go to everyone involved.

In addition to this commitment, however, such a large-scale project also requires financing and here our special thanks go to the **Joachim Herz Foundation (JHF)**, which is based in Hamburg. The foundation financed an introductory trip and this first student exchange through its *German Apprenticeship Training Exchange (GATE)* program. Relevant links can be found at the end of this publication. In addition, the Joachim Herz Foundation is the midwife of this partnership, which it initiated at one of its network days in November 2021.

This short introduction should suffice - everything else is explained on the following pages.

**Stephan Petersen**

Exchange program coordinator, BS27

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<sup>1</sup> Vocational School for Industrial Logistics and Security

## **Initiation of partnership between BS27 and Nova Scotia Community College, Canada**

In order to enable more of our students to spend time abroad, Mr. Petersen took part in the Joachim Herz Foundation's transatlantic networking day in November 2021 for BS27. At this regular event, US and Canadian colleges look for German partner vocational schools to organize student exchanges. During the event, which was opened by U.S. Consul General Darion Akins, initial discussions about a possible partnership with the Canadian Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC; <https://www.nsc.ca>) arose.

In January 2022, a one-hour online partnership discussion took place between participants of BS27 and NSCC to initiate the first steps of a possible collaboration.

On the NSCC side, the partners are initially the *School of Trades and Transportation* and the *School of Fisheries*. The partner on the BS27 side is the *Logistics Department* and there primarily the training profession of port boatmen. The common wish is to establish a cooperation/exchange of trainees and teachers for this training area - on site and virtually. In addition, further cooperation in the area of other training occupations was discussed during the partnership discussion and is conceivable - e.g. for the training occupations of port logistics specialist, protection and security specialist.

As part of the initiation process, the NSCC plans to send a small delegation to Hamburg in spring 2022 to get to know BS27 better. BS27 will then present the theoretical and practical work with the trainees in the vocational school to the delegation and also visit some training companies so that the Canadian delegation can gain an impression of the performance of the dual vocational training system. This will be done with the involvement of the trainees. Even during this first visit, the aim will be to explore the possibilities for cooperation in more detail.

In return, the BS27 will visit the NSCC in Canada in October 2022 with three colleagues in order to get to know the work of the NSCC better on site. The Joachim Herz Foundation has already given its funding commitment for this introductory trip. The primary goal of the introductory trip will be to find out more about the options (NSCC courses, accommodation, etc.) for our trainees on site.

In order to involve the Hamburg training companies in port shipping right from the start, we also want to try to take a representative of the training companies with us on this introductory trip in order to obtain the appropriate support in the Hamburg port industry for our trainees.

## School partnership BS27 – NSCC



Photo: Shelburne, October 2022: Christian Gruschka, NSCC-Manager Daniel Basquill, Duane Dakin, Stephan Petersen, Frank Montua (Photo NSCC)

In the first week of October 2022, the Vocational School for Industrial Logistics & Security (BS27) visited the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) in Canada with colleagues Christian Gruschka, Frank Montua and Stephan Petersen. This introductory trip to a school partnership was mainly funded by the GATE program of the Joachim Herz Foundation (JHS).

The aim of the trip was to get to know the work of the NSCC on site and to discuss how the NSCC and the BS27 can establish a joint student exchange program. From the very beginning, the BS27 focused on the two apprenticeships of *port boatman* and *specialists for port logistics*.

The NSCC took over the travel planning on site and showed the BS27 delegation several NSCC locations. These included the NSCC Institute of Technology Campus, the NSCC Akerley Campus, the Center for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship and the NSCC Ivany Campus in Halifax and Dartmouth. At the end of the trip, the NSCC Nautical Institute in Port Hawkesbury and the NSCC School of Fisheries in Shelburne were particularly interesting for the colleagues from BS27.

The latter two NSCC locations ultimately emerged as possible partners for a student exchange for BS27, as the nautical training there has many overlaps with the training of *port boatmen* in Hamburg.

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*Photo: Terminal C. Steinweg January 2023: Stephan Petersen, Duane Dakin, Frank Montua, Christian Gruschka, John-Suresh Selvaraj, Zoran Kondali (Photo Thomas Friede)*

At the end of January 2023, the one-week return visit by three representatives of the NSCC took place. Zoran Kondali, Manager, NSCC International, Duane Dakin, Academic Chair, School of Fisheries and John-Suresh Selvaraj, Academic Chair, Nautical Institute visited us.

In Hamburg, we introduced our visitors to the BS27 and students in the port boatman training profession and talked with our school supervisor Frank Hölting about the dual vocational training system in Germany. There was also a trip on the *Gertrud* training barge including a visit to the Hamburg pilots and the Nautical Center to make the processes on the Elbe tangible. Since our guests are also interested in wind energy, Christian Gruschka drove our guests to the *Wesermarsch* and visited the Maritime Competence Center there and the *Deutsche WindGuard*.

In addition to a visit to the JHS, which Beate Gröblichhoff, Head of International Vocational Training at HIBB, also took part in, we then visited training companies with our visitors and held discussions with trainers and trainees. We visited HADAG, Alster-Touristik, PCH - Packing Center Hamburg, Container Terminal Burchardkai (CTB) and the C. Steinweg company. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the training companies for the great discussions, which demonstrated the close cooperation between companies and schools and left a lasting impression on our guests.

At the end of the trip, BS27 and NSCC initially agreed with a handshake to initiate a mutual student exchange for next year and we are currently in the planning and coordination phase to submit a corresponding application to the Joachim Herz Foundation. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the JHS - especially Isabel Dwinger and Cornélie Lefèvre - for their support so far in initiating this partnership.

## Let's get started!

The handshake between **BS27** and **NSCC** was followed relatively quickly by action, as everyone involved realized that somehow everything fits together and that they can rely on each other.

As already mentioned, BS27 then took the lead in submitting the GATE funding application to the **Joachim Herz Foundation** for both educational institutions in 2023, and once it was approved, the project description and the cost plan - i.e. theoretical considerations up to that point - took on a life of their own.

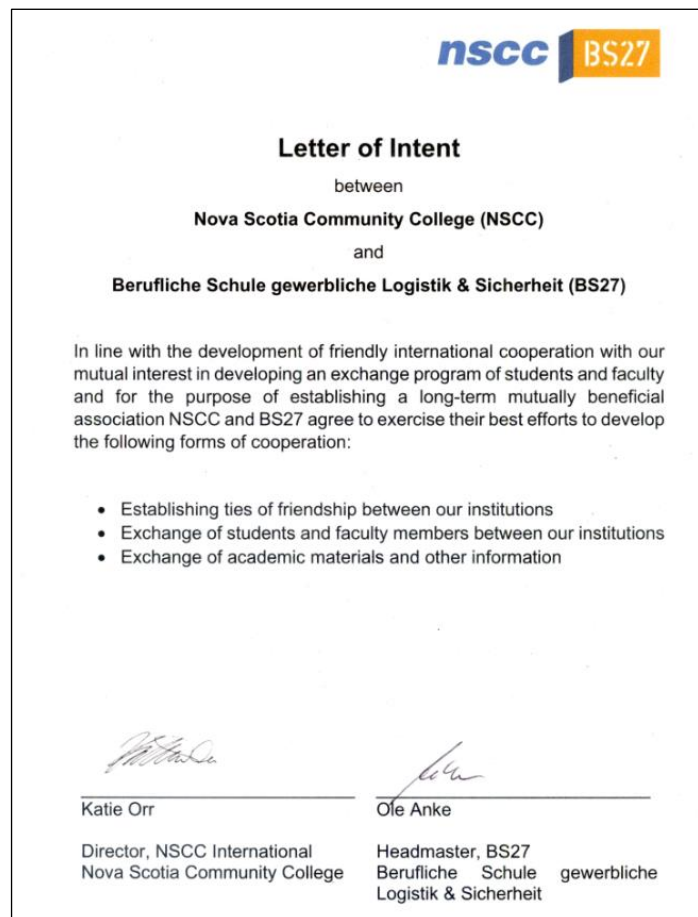
From this point on, both sides of the Atlantic quickly began booking flights, accommodation and a rental car - but also creating visit programs so that the participants could get to know the other country better from a professional and cultural point of view.

With regard to the professional program points, our special thanks go to the training companies named in the report, who not only allowed their trainees to take part in this exchange program, but also actively participated in designing the visit program.

The selection of participants on both sides was about identifying learners with good academic performance who had not yet had the opportunity to take part in an exchange abroad. This is intended to increase the attractiveness of the training from the school's point of view and to make it possible to take part in a stay abroad during vocational training, which is otherwise rare.

In May 2024 the time had come and five Canadian trainees to become ship technicians or nautical officers and an instructor set off for Hamburg. Namely the ship technicians **Sylvie Boudreau** and **Boyd MacIntyre**, the nautical officers **Brent Myatt**, **Paul Vigneau** and **Julianna Lucic** and their instructor Captain **Steven Baxter**.

The following report summarizes the experiences in Hamburg.



## Student exchange 2024 Part 1: NSCC in Hamburg



(Photo L-R Paul Vigneau, Brent Myatt, Boyd MacIntyre, Sylvie Boudreau, Julianna Lucic, Captain Steven Baxter)

After almost two years of preparation for the first maritime student exchange between the *Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC)* and *Berufliche Schule gewerbliche Logistik & Sicherheit (BS27)*, five aspiring navigators and ship technicians, as well as one teacher from the Nautical Institute, NSCC Strait Area Campus, arrived on Sunday, May 12th, 2024, in Hamburg for a week-long visit.

On Sunday we went on a small city tour for orientation, i.e. through Hamburg's city center with *Jungfernstieg* and *Rathausplatz*. Followed by *Domplatz* via the *Speicherstadt* and *HafenCity* towards Landungsbrücken. There our Canadian guests were able to experience the last hours of the 835th port anniversary.

On Monday, after a short official welcome at the BS27 and the first meeting between the Canadian students and our port boatmen trainees from the class Schi20, we returned to the Port of Hamburg. There we first visited *Seemannshöft* pilot station, and the second alderman Focko Osterkamp of the Hamburg Harbor Pilots' Association explained in a lecture how ships are guided in the port of Hamburg. Afterwards we went to the *Süd-West Terminal* of the C. Steinweg company. There, among other things, the handling of conventional general cargo as well as the storage business in the metals exchange were explained in a guided tour. Luckily a ship was being loaded at the terminal, which made the tour even more interesting. A visit to a famous fish restaurant in Hamburg's Veddel district ended this first day together.





On Tuesday, the Canadian students accompanied our port boatmen trainees during their classes on the ship's marine diesel engine and ropework. Since this work is part of the training in both countries, everyone involved got along very well. The Canadians were also able to get to know our five trainees who will be taking part in a return visit to Nova Scotia later this month.

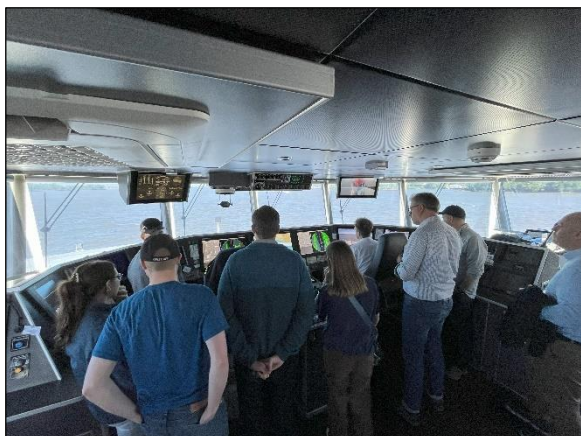
Our trainees immediately provided translation assistance in class and also set up a messenger group so that further appointments could be made for the following days. In addition to eating together in the school canteen, the BS27 invited their guests to the traditional Gröninger brewery in the evening and, after working together, a nice cultural end to the day was found.

The planning of Wednesday's program was entirely in the hands of our port boatmen trainees, who showed their Canadian counterparts the operational side of their vocational training on the ships in their training companies. These included ships from *Rainer Abicht Elbreederei GmbH & Co. KG*, *ATG Alster-*



*Touristik GmbH* and *HADAG Seetouristik und Fährdienst AG*. The students were able to discover a lot of similarities in their training, but of course also differences, as there is a lot of touristic traffic in the Port of Hamburg. The students then ended their evening together.





On Thursday the entire port boatmen class went on a day trip with our Canadian guests to the island Heligoland. A highlight right at the beginning of this trip with the high-speed catamaran - after our group was personally welcomed by the shipping company FRS - was a visit to the bridge and the engine room of the *Halunder Jet*. Many questions were answered - especially navigational questions regarding ferry traffic on the Lower Elbe but also about the helmsman's career path. Another interesting piece of information was that the previous *Halunder Jet* now operates between Seattle (USA) and Victoria, Vancouver Island (Canada).

We also received a lecture from Moritz Freerks, employee of the Hamburg Port Authority (HPA), about the control of shipping traffic and monitoring and security in the Port of Hamburg. After arriving on Heligoland, everyone involved had a lot of fun visiting the island of Heligoland in bright sunshine.

On Friday three company tours in the Port of Hamburg ended our program. The topic on this last day: container handling. The first stop was therefore the *Container Terminal Burchardkai (CTB)* of *Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA)*. Of course the group wasn't only theorizing about container handling, they were also allowed to climb onto a container bridge and look at the handling operations from a bird's eye view.



The following appointment at the Packing Center Hamburg (PCH) was not just about how import and export containers are loaded and unloaded in the Port of Hamburg. The various storage options were also demonstrated, especially when it comes to dangerous goods and hazardous substances. This appointment was particularly interesting for our Canadian guests, as it is normally not possible to have an insight into the containers – as future captains they will only deal with sealed boxes.

At our last stop, current and former BS27 trainees (Specialists in Port Logistics) were able to shine as they conducted an English-language tour at *NKG Kala Hamburg*, whose main business is the storage of coffee. From the receipt of goods for various types of coffee to silo storage, our Canadian guests learned a lot on how to handle one of the most important import goods.

Although, the week with our new Canadian friends went by very fast, we are very happy to have given young trainees from Canada an insight into vocational training in Hamburg, but also the Port of Hamburg.

None of this would have been possible without the financial support of the **Joachim Herz Foundation** (JHS), to whom we would like to express our gratitude. Through their experience in transatlantic student exchange of trainees, as well as contacts to Canada, the JHS made this partnership with the NSCC possible for us and provided reliable support at all times.

Of course, there are also other participants without whom the organization of this student exchange would not be possible. This includes the BS27 school association, all students involved, and the BS27 teachers involved. Of course, a very special thank you goes to the training companies mentioned above, who allowed us to provide an insight into the operational side of the training. This is not a given and we greatly appreciate this commitment (not just of working hours).

Next, we are looking forward to our trainees' trip to Canada – report to follow.

Stephan Petersen, Christian Gruschka, Frank Montua

**This report on the BS27 website will now be followed on the next four pages by impressions Canadian students Paul Vigneau, Boyd McIntyre and Brent Myatt gained during their visit to Hamburg. Thanks guys for sharing your thoughts!**



Boyd McIntyre, Paul Vigneau & Brent Myatt



### **Paul Vigneau - Blog for Hamburg**

Stepping into Hamburg's bustling port felt like entering a world where the past and future of maritime trade converge. My recent exchange trip to Hamburg, along with four other students, offered a unique glimpse into the enormous world of maritime operations and logistics. From the towering cranes lining the docks to the specialized training taking place at the boatmen school (BS27), my journey was an eye-opening adventure that bridged academic theory with real-world experience. In this blog, I will outline the highlights of this unforgettable

voyage and share the insights gained from immersing myself in the dynamic environment of Hamburg.

The exchange program is done in partnership with the boatmen of BS27 school, a vocational post-secondary school for Hamburg boatmen and port logistics training. The school offers 2-3 specialized apprenticeships programs, equipping the students with the necessary knowledge and qualification to work in the port. In the case of the boatmen, the apprenticeship is done both in class and on the water with a boat company, who will hire them upon their graduation. Therefore, our trip included visiting three different passenger boat companies in the port and in the city.

A large part of this trip was also dedicated to visiting port facilities, as Hamburg is the third largest port in Europe by container throughput. Break bulk cargo, oil, coffee, and containers, Hamburg has it all, and in astonishing proportions. The towering container cranes can lift containers up to 50m, and the port can welcome vessels of 400m in length. All throughout the import-export process, from container packing to loading aboard vessels, we witnessed German precision and efficiency at its finest. The scale of operations seen in Hamburg certainly gives us navigators a new perspective on this industry.

On top of maritime-related visits, we had the opportunity to travel to Heligoland for a day, which is a small island off the German coast. We also visited the center of Hamburg bit by bit in the late afternoons, which provided an excellent context for the visits to the port. Historically, Hamburg was made wealthy through trade, as demonstrated by the rich past architecture. However, the extensive WW2 British-American bombing campaign of the city means it mostly had to be rebuilt afterwards, making Hamburg a very modern city overall.

## Boyd MacIntyre - Blog for Hamburg

The International program was an incredible experience! I would highly recommend it to all cadets at NSCC. I learned so much about different cultures, travelling abroad, how to communicate with others (when English is not their first language), and developed a deeper understanding of the marine industry.

The week I spent in Hamburg was filled with cool adventures and so many learning experiences. We were given a tour of the city as soon as we arrived on Sunday.

Monday, we were introduced to the students and staff at BS27, the school in Hamburg in the exchange program. We then went to see the port traffic centre and met a pilot, who explained in depth what he does and told us about the port of Hamburg. Then we visited a break bulk cargo company and their port. They showed us how their cargo is stored, loaded/unloaded from ships and how many different types of cargo they ship. Tuesday, we participated in shop classes with the students of BS27 and saw a little of what they learn in their course. We got to participate in their rope work class and their engine shop class. Then after class, the students and staff that will be coming to Canada for their International program, invited all of us out to dinner.

Wednesday, we got to shadow each student for BS27 that will be coming to Canada on their exchange. We got to see what a workday looks like for each one of the students at their company. Thursday, they took us on a 3-hour ferry ride to the Island of Helgoland. On this island, we got to see some structures left over from World War II and got to tour the ferry's bridge and engine room. Friday, we got to visit one of the container terminals in Hamburg, where we were taught how the container operation works. It was interesting to see the complexity of the container terminals. There are so many moving parts to make sure all the containers get to the right place and on time. Then we got to go to a container packing company. We got to see them receive products to be shipped via trucks and then they would categorize the products based on where they were to be shipped to, then we watched them pack the containers. Then we got to see a coffee trading company. We got to see the whole process step by step. We saw how they check the quality of the coffee beans when receiving, then how they transfer the coffee beans from the sea can into the coffee silo. The next step was the cleaning process for the beans, then how the beans are bagged for the customers.

Thank you to all the students and staff at BS27 for being extremely welcoming and for looking after us really well all week. I couldn't have asked for a better international experience; it was above and beyond what I expected!





## Brent Myatt – Blog for Hamburg



On Wednesday, May 15th, our group had the privilege to be taken out on multiple tours of the harbour boats where our German host students worked. These tours consisted of experiencing what their daily work schedule consisted of, a tour of the engine room, the bridge, and of course making a round trip of the route in the harbour that they sail on daily.

There were three different boats that we toured, from three different companies, one boat was a passenger ferry, which made several stops along either side of Hamburg harbour. Another vessel was a large tour boat that toured around many popular places in the harbour, which came complete with a tour guide, and bar. The last boat we toured was a small tour boat, which toured a large lake, which runs into the harbour. This lake is full of small sailboats, dinghies, and very large houses along the shoreline.

While we were touring on the harbour tour boat, all our group had the opportunity to steer the vessel, I am in the picture below steering that vessel. The steering of these types of boats is a bit tricky to get used to at first, since they don't have a conventional rudder, but have azimuth thrusters, which can direct thrust over 360°. This differs from a normal boat, because it feels like you have to turn the helm right to go left, but once you catch onto it, it's actually quite simple.

This trip was full of highlights, and this is just one of them, I only wish the trip could have been longer so we could have experienced more of this great city.

**In his home country, Brent was also able to report on the visit to Hamburg – on the following page you will find an excerpt from a report in the Guysborough Journal.**

## **NSCC student rides academic wave to Germany**

### **Canso's Brent Myatt aiming for career as ship's captain**

*May 19, 2024, Corey LeBlanc*

CANSO — Brent Myatt has loved being on the water for as long as he can remember.

That passion for the sea has even spurred his academic pursuits, which boasted an international flavour earlier this month.

The Canso native – a marine navigation technology student at the Nova Scotia Community College's (NSCC's) Strait Area Campus in Port Hastings – recently travelled to Hamburg, Germany as part of a contingent from the school's marine institute.

"It was really exciting – a trip of a lifetime," the 21-year-old said of their visit to the major port city, one connected to the North Sea by the Elbe River.

Myatt was proud to be selected as one of five students that accompanied Steven Baxter, lead faculty with the marine institute at the Strait Area Campus, on the voyage.

"It was an amazing experience," the third-year student told The Journal.

While on the first half of the exchange, the NSCC delegation were hosted by students and instructors with the marine component of Germany's highly respected vocational school system.

"I got the chance to steer one," Myatt noted of being at the controls of a tour boat in Hamburg Harbour.

He said that they also received an "inside perspective" of the inner workings of a large-scale container terminal.

"It was great to see the other side," Myatt offered of what's involved with the journey for the cargo on the types of ships that he and his colleagues may be sailing on some day.

They also visited a 10-storey building that housed coffee beans. "I didn't know that they were green," Myatt said of the hue-related lesson the group received during that stop.

The NSCC group also learned what's involved in preparing those beans for distribution, including moisture tests and a lengthy drying out process.

"We had a lot of fun and we learned so much," Myatt added.

Noting how he was "amazed" by that java-related encounter – what's involved – Baxter quipped, "I will never complain about the price of my coffee again."

Describing it as "really education," the NSCC lead faculty said having his students be a part of that "cross-over experience" – seeing the inner workings of a "busy port" – was invaluable. [...]


**For the full report please scan the QR code. ▶**





## Program planning

We are very pleased that the Canadian trainees have many memories of their week in Hamburg. However, a weekly plan like the one shown on the right can only give an indication of what the participants experienced.

Of course, the program items are important. We were particularly pleased though, that the German and Canadian trainees got on well with each other and also started to network. This resulted in evening appointments and activities that are difficult to depict in a weekly plan like this.

	
May 2024 Study Tour NSCC Group to Hamburg Agenda – week of May 13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday May 12 <sup>th</sup> - Arrival	
May 13 <sup>th</sup> Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>09:30 Official welcome @ BS27</li> <li>11:30 Visiting the port traffic centre</li> <li>13:30 – 14:30 Visiting C. Steinweg (break bulk cargo)</li> </ul> Lunch somewhere on the road 🍷
May 14 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>09:30 NSCC students follow BS27 students (2 groups) during their training day in school                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>training at marine diesel engine (10:00 – 11:30)</li> <li>ropework - maintenance and repair of rope (12:00 – 13:30)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Lunch @ campus & Dinner together (possibly @ Gröninger)
May 15 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Starting times will be communicated May 14<sup>th</sup></b></li> <li>NSCC students follow our BS27 students who will visit Canada during their workday into their training companies, i.e. HADAG, Rainer Abicht Elbreederei GmbH &amp; Co. KG &amp; ATG Alster-Touristic</li> </ul>
May 16 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>08:30 Trip to the island Helgoland                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>includes trip down the Lower Elbe (Untereibe)</li> <li>visit to the island 46 kilometers off the German coastline</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
May 17 <sup>th</sup> Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:45 <b>Hotel pickup</b></li> <li>Visiting port logistics companies in Hamburg                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HHLA (container terminals)</li> <li>PCH (container packing)</li> <li>NGK Kala (coffee trader)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Saturday May 18 <sup>th</sup> - Departure	

					
TRIP ITINERARY			TRIP ITINERARY		
Day 1 – Monday, May 27			Day 4 – Thursday, May 30		
Time	Location	Activity	Time	Location	Activity
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Main Campus - Theater	Welcome Presentation with Student Services, Morning refreshments provided	8:30 – 11:30 AM	Departure from Campus to Hamburg	Facility Tour
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Fire School	Selfie, Briefing and Building Tour	11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Trip to Heede United	Lunch Provided
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Fire School	Break - Refreshments provided	12:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Heede United	Tour
10:45 – 12:00 PM	Fire School	Practical Fire Fighting Exercises including Breathing Apparatus exercises	Day 5 – Friday, May 31		
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break	Lunch Provided	8:30 AM	Departure from Campus to Radebeck	Stival
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Ocean Innovation Centre	Practical Exercises with Lifeboats and PRC Centre	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Radebeck, Alexander Graham Bell Museum	Tour
Day 2 – Tuesday, May 28			Day 5 – Friday, May 31		
Time	Location	Activity	Time	Location	Activity
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Main Campus	Building Tour	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break	
9:30 AM	Main Campus - Wave Tank	Practical Pool exercises	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Trip to Skyline Boat	Hiking the Skyline Boat
12:00 PM	Lunch - Main Campus	Lunch Provided	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Skyline Boat	
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Main Campus	Simulator tour (Navigation & Engineering)			
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Main Campus, Room 348	English Industry Course with Steve Baster			
Day 3 – Wednesday, May 29			Day 5 – Friday, May 31		
Time	Location	Activity	Time	Location	Activity
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Departure from Campus to Northumberland Ferries	Water tour and crossing (departure time may change due to sea state)			
4:00 PM	Maritime Inn, Antigonish	Dinner Reservation - Dinner Provided			
8:00 PM	Return to Campus Housing				

If these contacts then extend beyond the one week visit in Hamburg, this is very gratifying in addition to all the specialist knowledge imparted.

A few days later, the five Hamburg trainees **Jaqueline Wegehaupt, Lena Marie Schenk, Léon Kasper, Alexander Beckmann,** and **Sebastian Schenck**, as well as **Stephan Petersen** as accompanying teacher, headed to Nova Scotia for a two-week return visit.

BS 27 Germany Student Visit					
Sunday June 2	Monday June 3	Tuesday June 4	Wednesday June 5	Thursday June 6	Friday June 6
	Meet in the cafeteria welcome from Staff Tour of the Campus	ABCO Industries Inc. 81 Tannery Road, Lunenburg Dr. Colin Ross R&D Program Coordinator	Simulator with Joe	Simulator with Joe	
	Simulator with Joe	Tour of facility <a href="http://www.abco.ca">www.abco.ca</a>			
Travel from Port Hawkesbury to Shelburne	Lunch at the Campus?	Tour of Lunenburg Harbour aboard their experimental electric boat	Lunch at the Campus?	Lunch at the Campus?	Travel from Shelburne to Halifax Airport
	Simulator with Joe	Walk the waterfront	Tour of Shelburne Harbour Man Overboard Drills with Liam Harding and Joe	Black Loyalist Heritage Centre <a href="http://www.blackloyalist.novascotia.ca">www.blackloyalist.novascotia.ca</a>	
	Supper at Boxing Rock Brewing Company <a href="http://www.boxingrock.ca">www.boxingrock.ca</a>	Supper at Blarney Stone <a href="http://www.blarneystonerestaurant.ca">www.blarneystonerestaurant.ca</a>	Supper	****Lobster**** Supper at Sandy Point Community Centre <a href="http://www.sandypoint@thhouse.com">www.sandypoint@thhouse.com</a>	

Of course, the NSCC also made detailed plans for both weeks. These are also shown here, and we would like to thank everyone involved in creating these plans. Of course, not every plan is always implemented 100% - but without planning, an exchange is also unthinkable.

On the following pages, the Hamburg trainees report very personally about their experiences in Nova Scotia and in some cases look back on their time with the Canadians in Hamburg.

## Report Jaqueline Wegehaupt

1. Personal perception of the time spent with the Canadians in Hamburg
2. Personal introduction of myself with reasons, expectations and subsequent feelings about the experience and the exchange project in Canada



### 1. Personal perception of the time spent with the Canadians in Hamburg

I had the feeling that the exchange students felt very welcome from the start, as we even did some private things together. We were able to exchange lots of stories and tell each other about our work activities. The city of Hamburg was definitely very exciting for the young people, as it feels like a completely different world here than in the province where they live, full of nature.

The sheer number of inhabitants and the large number of people in such a small space was certainly exciting for them. They were also amazed at the high volume of traffic on the Elbe River and the difference to the quieter Alster River. They were all able to gather these impressions when we were able to show them our companies.

First we went on a harbor tour at Abicht, where all the exchange students were also able to take the helm with our instructor Sven. They all mastered it well and were quite proud of it. 😊 Afterwards we were all able to look at the HADAG headquarters and the old ship "Kirchdorf" together. This was followed by a ferry tour on line 62 in the wheelhouse with conversations with the ferry captain. Finally, we took the subway over to the Alster, where we went on a canal cruise.

All in all, it was a very exciting and really fun time for the exchange students and for us too, so we exchanged numbers and stayed in touch.

The good connection we had with each other was also reflected in the fact that two of the five exchange students who had the time to do so, visited us during our stay in Canada and spent time with us. 😊

### 2. Personal introduction of myself with reasons, expectations and subsequent feelings about the experience and the exchange project in Canada

Hi, I'm Jacky, 35 years old and I'm currently doing my second apprenticeship.

This time as a port boatman, because I didn't like my old job as a trained state-certified dietician anymore and I had the feeling that there was somehow more waiting for me in life. So I decided to do this apprenticeship and don't regret a single moment. I've found my calling, love this job and am looking forward to my future. 😊

I work at *Rainer Abicht Elbrederei*, a tourism company with the largest fleet in the harbor. We have old traditional barges, newer luxury barges, ginaliners and also large passenger ships that can transport up to 500 people.

During the apprenticeship I learn how to moor and steer all different ships, as well as engine knowledge and maintenance, and how to deal with guests. In our company, it is also part of



the process that we learn to chat freely on the microphone, which means that we introduce the Port of Hamburg to our passengers in a historical but also fun way.

It's really a very varied job in my personal favorite place in Germany, and it's also a lot of fun. What's special is that one of my teachers recently recommended me to the ARD television station, as they were looking for trainees who would like to be accompanied and filmed at work and to present the apprenticeship through additional interviews, which I took as a compliment and was very happy about. 😊

A few exciting days of filming and the big interview are already behind me and then I was also asked to capture a few impressions in Canada so that they can be included in the broadcast. I am very grateful for this successful exchange and am already looking forward to the broadcast next winter.

When I found out about this exchange, I immediately knew that I would apply and definitely wanted to take part. I also immediately realized that this was an unforgettable and probably once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If only because we were going all the way across the pond to Canada 😊

When I found out about the general structure of the program, I was even more certain and really happy that my fellow trainee Leon would definitely want to take part too. Then the time had finally come, and the big trip was about to begin. Everyone was very excited when we finally got to Hamburg Airport on May 26, 2024, and the check-in went smoothly.

After a long journey by plane and rental car, we moved into our accommodations at the "Campus Housing" in Port Hawkesbury at the "Nautical Institute" of the Nova Scotia Community College late in the evening and fell into bed tired.

On the first morning, after an extremely friendly welcome meeting and a tour of the Nautical Institute's college building, we went straight to the firehouse, where we put on original uniforms and were supposed to put out controlled fires. We were well informed about how to react in the event of a fire on a ship and were instructed in how to use breathing masks and oxygen bottles, which will be very helpful for our future.

After that we went to the harbor, where we rode in fast lifeboats and practiced man-overboard maneuvers. That was a really cool and exciting experience. We were then given the opportunity to operate a rescue capsule ourselves and also look inside.

The next day we went to a wave pool, where we learned how to use rescue suits and group survival exercises, such as forming human chains and operating life rafts, which I also find incredibly important in our field of work and, looking back, was my highlight of the first week.

We visited a few exciting museums in various places during our stay. Among others, the "Alexander Graham Bell Museum", "Friends United", which shows an exhibition on indigenous art, and the "Black Loyalist Heritage Centre", and were thus able to learn a lot of exciting history. A ferry crossing to Prince Edward Island (PEI) with a tour of the engine room and the captain's bridge was also special and impressive.

For us, we noticed that all the people in Port Hawkesbury and the surrounding area, as well as later in Shelburne, were incredibly friendly and interested in us and this exchange project. Everyone was very helpful and open to any conversation. Whether about training content, previous personal careers or some nice and exciting private topics of conversation, everything was there. We all felt very welcome and were able to enjoy this time together.

After an incredible first week and a sentimental farewell, we continued south to Shelburne to the School of Fisheries with a 4-hour stopover halfway in Halifax. Excited by the view and our

accommodations, we did various nautical chart exercises there, such as course calculations and marking positions, which we then had to enter into navigation simulators. With this data, we tried to steer our ship virtually and keep to the previously calculated courses, but also to intervene in time when unexpected things occur to avoid collisions. That was really exciting; we all managed it really quickly and well and could be proud of ourselves. 😊

A day trip to Lunenburg, the oldest German settlement in Canada with a long tradition of fishing and shipbuilding, was also a big highlight of our stay. After a tour of the factory halls at ABCO Industries, we had an insight into the production of technical metal products for large companies and also in shipbuilding. We then walked along the beautiful pier in Lunenburg Harbor and spontaneously took a harbor tour trip, during which we were even allowed to take the helm.

My personal absolute highlight was our time on the lobster boat! We went out onto the Atlantic, put on life suits and jumped into the ocean, which was incredibly exciting for me. In the water we then tested some of the survival exercises that we learned at the Nautical Institute.

Later we were allowed to jump from the roof of the boat, which was definitely a challenge for me. :D After I had done that, I personally also felt a strong sense of pride again, because it is simply great when you realize that you have overcome your fears and were able to exceed previously existing limits. 😊

#### **Final words:**

We would all like to have a follow-up exchange for the next years of training and hope that our reports and the impressive photos will convince you. Maybe we can also hopefully somehow convey what exciting and educational things we were able to experience and learn in a very short space of time, which are either not possible or simply not offered in Hamburg.

It even got us all thinking about working abroad. There are some helpful offers that we weren't aware of before and now we were even able to make a few important contacts in the simplest way, where we were warmly welcomed and said goodbye to without reservation.

A big THANK YOU for making this exchange possible. It was a great experience for life and great memories were left in our minds! Therefore, I can say in conclusion that this entire project is a complete benefit for our careers and gives students who are planning even bigger things in their future a good insight into the possibilities and paths.

For me, it has always been one of the things that staying abroad automatically helps you personally in terms of your own strengths. You find your way around in a foreign country, speak English consistently with many different people, thus minimizing language barriers and strengthening your own self-confidence at the same time. You get to know another culture, can get rid of any prejudices and thus greatly broaden your own horizons. <3

I do have one tiny suggestion for improvement though: Since the planned program usually ends in the afternoon, as it did for us, and you end up in pretty remote places, I think it would be better if you find out beforehand whether you can rent any means of transport nearby for your free time. I would have loved to explore the area on my own, but after such exciting days, walking for miles was no longer an option :D

We would all be in favor of a reunion tour, which I think shows very well what our conclusion about this exchange is 😊

## Report Alexander Beckmann

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to give you some feedback on my exchange program in Nova Scotia. My name is Alexander Beckmann, I am 25 years old, and I am training to be a port boatman.

During my stay in Canada I had the opportunity to improve my English skills and gain valuable nautical experience. The Canadians I met in Hamburg were very friendly and humorous. The exchange about nautical studies in Canada and the differences to our training system was particularly exciting.

The highlights of my first week in Port Hawkesbury included the nautical exercises on the shipping simulator and the engine room simulator, as this technology was state-of-the-art, and the exercise was therefore very educational but also fun. Culturally, I was particularly impressed by the indigenous museum, where we were able to view fascinating works of art by "First Nations".

The second week in Shelburne involved reading nautical charts, plotting coordinates and calculating collision courses using the radar map.

A cultural highlight was the visit to the town of Lunenburg, which was also settled by German immigrants and has a close connection to fishing.

I was particularly surprised by the nature in Canada - everything was densely forested everywhere. I noticed that Canadians try to live in harmony with nature and want to operate sustainably, both in forestry and fishing; this is definitely something to follow.

Overall, my English has improved significantly, and I have gained a deeper insight into nautical tasks. However, I would have liked to have done more practical nautical tasks, as these are particularly important to me.

I thank you for the opportunity to take part in this exchange program and hope that my feedback is helpful for future participants.

Best regards,

Alexander Beckmann



## Report Léon Kasper

### 1. Who am I and what do I do in my apprenticeship?

My name is Léon Kasper, I'm 26 years old and I'm training to be a harbor skipper. In my business I do a lot of things like getting ships ready and maintaining them, transporting and entertaining ferry passengers, giving harbor tours, driving ships and of course lending a hand here and there when there are difficulties or when there's an emergency.



### 2. Why did I want to take part in the Canada trip and what were my expectations?

I wanted to go on the trip to Canada because I like to broaden my horizons. Especially because we had the opportunity to go to college, which I was particularly interested in. I didn't really have any expectations, I wanted to be surprised by what Canada and the local people had to offer, to take the plunge, so to speak.

### 3. How did I feel about the Canadian week in Hamburg and what did I like best?

I found the week with the Canadians here in Hamburg very refreshing. I had a lot of fun showing these 6 people our city and our profession. I really enjoy exchanging ideas with people anyway! I/we worked really hard to show as much of ourselves as possible this week and I think we managed that!

I liked the second to last evening best because we all went to a bar together to get to know each other a bit and to have a little private chat. We even had a few local friends with us who welcomed the Canadians with open arms. Maybe a bit of a culture shock for one or the other - but all in all, the Hamburg accent is very amusing!

### 4. How was your own trip? What were the highlights in the 1st/2nd week? Professionally, culturally and/or personally?

My own trip to Canada was simply overwhelming. The long journey to Canada and being so far away from home felt really great. A real trip and a great experience for me! The country itself is beautiful and the nature is simply wonderful. The people are incredibly nice and accommodating and if you have a problem, they listen to you and help you. The whole trip was actually a big highlight!

In terms of expertise, I would say that I enjoyed driving the high-speed rescue boats the most - racing across the water at almost 40 knots, or 60 km/h - it made my heart beat faster! Culturally, I liked Friends United the most. A house to better understand the culture of the First Nations (original inhabitants of Canada). We also met an artist there, Jasyn Lucas. Art from the various First Nations tribes is also exhibited in these rooms.

Which brings me to the human part. We made a lot of new friends there, not only Jasyn, who is a great guy, but also Captain Steven Baxter, who was there for us the first week in Port Hawkesbury. It was very painful to say goodbye after the first week.



In the second week I got on best with Joe and Tammie, also really warm people who welcomed us right away.

The farewell was so painful that you just want to go back to Canada! Nevertheless, I am happy to have my feet back on Hamburg soil, because that is my home! We are already planning to see everyone who took part in this trip again soon, both students and teachers!

**5. What surprised me? Who would I recommend participating in this program?**

Everything surprised me, but most of all the prices in the supermarket. For me as a German, Canada is more expensive than I expected. But that doesn't affect my general impression of Canada. It's just a different country with different customs and traditions.

For me as a diabetic, the food is a bit of a problem because everything is sweeter than in Germany. Especially breakfast. But it's all things that you can quickly get under control! I would recommend this program to anyone who is interested! It's a great opportunity to get an insight into other people's everyday lives and culture.

**6. What benefits do I see for dual training?**

A very big one! Unlike the Canadians, we are already in the middle of it, even though we are still in school. So 70% work and 30% school is just right! You feel much more confident in what you are doing when you have the opportunity to gain practical experience before you finish school or college.

**7. What was missing, and which improvements would I like to see?**

I didn't miss anything on this trip. If you're interested and curious, a lot of doors open. The only thing I would like is for the exchange students to have their own car (provided they have a driving license) or a bicycle. In the places we've been, it takes a little longer to get from A to B on foot. But that's really the only constructive criticism I want to give.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who made this trip possible for us, especially Stephan Petersen. He patiently put up with us for two weeks and really gave us a lot of freedom! It would be a pleasure and an honor for me to be able to go on a trip like this again at any time! I hope this report can arouse interest in such an adventure for everyone who reads it! I would not want to miss what I experienced during this time.!

## Report Sebastian Schenck

The trip to Canada was one of my greatest experiences so far. I have rarely had so many new impressions and experienced so much. We had two wonderful accommodations, both of which were more than good.

The first week we were in Port Hawkesbury at the NSCC. Mr. Baxter, a captain with a lot of experience in the Arctic Ocean, accompanied us the whole week and explained a lot. On the very first day we were out in small speed boats in the harbor, did fire-fighting safety exercises and got to know the college and the staff. We were given training in the wave tank, with full-body suits that protected us from the cold water. Various simulators were shown, for the engine room and for the navigators on the bridge.



The local people were all extremely friendly and it was really easy to exchange ideas about work and life in Canada and Germany. We looked at cities, learned a lot about Canadian culture and the indigenous people and got to know a completely different way of life. It was even organized for us to be allowed on the bridge and below deck in the engine room on a big car ferry to Prince Edward Island, that really amazed me!

We were given food every day and nice tours of all the places. The people in Canada treated us as if we had been friends for a long time, which gave us a lasting good feeling. The Canadians were also very interested in our work and the German training system. They are impressed by the way we learn our professions in Germany and the way the state supports us (e.g. the school system).

We even hiked to a beautiful waterfall in the mountains, visited museums with content that you only know from TV, if at all.

In the second week we went to Shelburne. A small town with few inhabitants, far from the next town. Here everything mainly revolves around fishing. We were given small cottages in the forest by a river. It was beautiful there. Joe Grandy, a former fisherman, then showed us around the town and showed us the School of Fisheries. Here mainly fishermen are trained. You learn navigation, using nautical charts and radar, how to communicate properly and how, where and what you can fish. These are areas that I was never taught in Hamburg.

We visited a company that stores and transports lobsters and crabs, we were able to ride with a lobster fisherman and even jump into the Atlantic! How cool is that? In the last few days we were invited to dinner three more times, met old familiar faces like Zoran, who we already knew from Germany. We met regional politicians and were given a traditional dish of lobster, salmon, peas, carrots and mashed potatoes by older, very nice ladies. It was so nice there.

I will never forget this trip. It gave me a new worldview; I met new friends and really learned a lot.

A big thank you again to the Joachim Herz Foundation. Without the support we would all have missed out on a lot, and I can only recommend that everyone support this tour and travel to Nova Scotia sometime. A big thank you also to our teacher Mr. Petersen for organizing everything so well and getting it all started. I am sure that the relationship between Canadians and Germans will develop in a very positive direction as a result. Thank you to everyone who came along and made this trip a memory for life.

## Report Lena Schenk

My name is Lena Marie Schenk, I am 24 years old and have been training to be a port boatman at ATG Alster-Touristik GmbH since September 1st, 2022. The focus of my company is tourist trips. However, we don't necessarily travel on the Elbe, but on its 56-kilometer-long tributary. With its 27 tributaries, it offers beautiful routes for our 2 canal trips, the Alster cruise, the Alster tour, our twilight trip and for our many special and charter trips. We also have the Fleet trip. It starts with us on the Binnenalster and then goes under the Reesendamm bridge to the Rathausschleuse, from there over the Alsterfleet to the Schaartorschleuse, and then later on to the Elbe.



I wanted to take part in the trip to Canada, or rather the exchange program with the NSCC students, because it was a great opportunity for me to get an idea of how everyday working life works in other countries and what the working conditions are like on other continents or in other countries, and whether you might learn something that is much better or worse than in Germany. I also always find it nice to meet new people and exchange ideas with them. It is also a great experience to live in a different culture for two weeks and to go to school or college. I was really looking forward to going because I wanted to gain some really good new experience for home and improve my English skills.

First, the 5 students from the NSCC were here with us in Hamburg to get to know the vocational school and our professions and companies with us. They were given a short tour of the city of Hamburg, attended classes with us at the vocational school, visited our companies, traveled with us to Heligoland on the catamaran "Halunder Jet" and looked at various terminals with different types of handling here in Hamburg. They also visited the pilot station and learned how ship navigation and traffic in the port of Hamburg works and is regulated.

On one of the evenings when the students were here in Hamburg, we all went to the Gröninger private brewery for dinner with our teachers (Mr. Petersen, Mr. Gruschka) from BS27 and the teacher (Captain Steven Baxter) from NSCC so that we could all get to know each other better. Afterwards, we, the students from BS27 who were allowed to fly to Canada, gave the students a short tour of the city. We started at the St. Nicolai Church and then walked along the *Alsterfleet* down to *Jungfernstieg* and from there we got on the S-Bahn and traveled two stops to the *Landungsbrücken*. We then continued walking and said goodbye to each other at around 10 p.m. at the *Landungsbrücken* subway station. For me, that was the best day while the students were here in Hamburg because we had a lot of time to get to know each other better and talk about all sorts of things. It was also nice to show them the Hamburg harbor in its nighttime light, where everything is so beautifully lit. The view of the harbor at night is completely different than during the day in daylight.

On our trip to Nova Scotia, we also learned, saw and got to know a lot of new things. After a short introductory event, we were able to get to know the college and the classes there on the first day of our trip, and to get an idea of the possibilities of teaching at the NSCC. I was able to overcome one of my biggest fears on the very first day. We were allowed to do a fire drill together with two teachers and up until that day, fire had always been the worst thing for me.

After a quick breakfast, two of us were able to put on breathing apparatus and try it out. After lunch, we went on a fast rescue boat ride through the harbor basin of Port Hawkesbury and looked at a 10-meter free-fall lifeboat from the inside and outside. Unfortunately, I caught a bit of a cold after the second night because the air conditioning in our room wasn't set warm enough. Unfortunately, that was also the reason why I could only watch the first exercises the

next day from the bench. We were given the opportunity to jump into a 10-degree wave pool wearing survival suits. I did put on the survival suit, but I didn't jump into the water.

We also got an insight into the many simulators that are available for teaching at the NSCC on several days. We also went to the town of Pictou, and like almost every town in Nova Scotia that we visited, the small town was very idyllic and beautiful. The trip to Prince Edward Island by ferry was also a very new experience for me personally and we had a really delicious dinner in a small, cute restaurant in Antigonish.

The tour of the Everwind company was also very interesting and informative. The visit to Friends United was also incredibly interesting. There we were able to admire some very beautiful art and later even met one of the artists who exhibits there. Sebastian and I then set off on foot to Port Hawkesbury in the evening to buy some food and drinks. That was the right decision because on the way back I saw a beaver in the wild for the very first time.

We also went to the Alexander Graham Bell Museum, where we saw a lot of educational things. Afterwards we ate something in a small local brewery before we drove to the Uisge Bàn Falls and hiked there. These waterfalls were incredibly beautiful. In the evening we ate together with Captain Baxter in a small restaurant in Port Hawkesbury.

On our last day we drove to Baddeck again to look at the town and the harbor. There was a Navy ship in the harbor that was having an open day. I even saw a little baby pig with a dress and painted hooves there. In the evening we said goodbye to Captain Baxter, which was very emotional because he had experienced everything with us, both the week of the Canadian students in Hamburg and the first week of our trip in Port Hawkesbury. He showed us a lot, taught us a lot and gave us something to take with us for the future. We were all sad that our time with him was already over.

My highlight of the first week was the fire drill, because it allowed me to finally overcome my panic fear of fire, and the day when we hiked to the waterfalls. I just love nature and since I spent most of my childhood in the Alps, it really gave me the feeling of being home again for the first time in 10 years that I had been looking for for a long time.

At the weekend we continued on to Shelburne after a day's stay in Halifax. When we got there, we were shown our cottages. They were small holiday homes in a small forest next to a cute little river. For me, that's exactly what I imagine Canada to be like, or what I think of when I talk about Canada. We only went shopping there once and then went to bed in the evening because we were really tired from the day in Halifax.

On our first day there at the School of Fisheries, after being welcomed, we were given a tour of the college building. I think it's cool that both colleges have lots of posters about topics like bullying, pride and human rights or against racism. In my opinion, all of these topics are not discussed enough here at our schools.

On the very first day, Joe showed us how to work on a nautical chart and we were allowed to try it out for ourselves. At first, I thought it was rather stupid because I didn't really understand it, but once I did, I thought it was even cooler. In the evening we went to dinner together at "Boxing Rock", a small local brewery. During the exchange program I noticed again and again that I definitely don't like Canadian beer.

The next day we all went on a trip to the town of Lunenburg. There were lots of small, colorful houses and one of them was bright pink. It just looked like Barbie's dream house! Here, as is appropriate for Hamburg port boatmen, we took a tour in a small boat with a very nice and funny boat captain or tourist guide. On this tour I saw lots of red jellyfish with super long



tentacles. In Lunenburg we also visited ABCO Industries and were given a tour of the halls where ships were being built. This tour was also very nicely designed and very interesting.

In the second week we were able to do more map work and radar exercises. We were also able to sail across the Atlantic on a lobster boat with a fisherman and then jump into the water from the boat wearing survival suits, where we also practiced a man overboard maneuver. Together with the fisherman, we also retrieved a forgotten lobster cage from the water, in which a small mini eel had wandered off. I took the mini eel and threw it back into the water so that it didn't have to die.

We also went to a lobster farm, where I was able to hold a live lobster in my hand. There we were shown the different lobsters, the big ones and the small ones, as well as a few crabs. The owner also explained to us that lobsters that aren't so nice aren't eaten in restaurants and are therefore often returned, even though they taste just as good as nice lobsters. We also drove to a lighthouse and a museum about the life of the African American population at that time, which was also very interesting. Our trip ended with a lobster dinner hosted by the NSCC. I ate lobster for the first time that evening and it was really delicious.

On our last day before departure, Mr. Petersen showed us the place Peggy's Cove, which was a really cool experience. I've never seen anything so beautiful. I can say that the people in Nova Scotia are all very warm, polite and loving. That is something completely different compared to here.

Anyone who wants to develop culturally, personally and linguistically should take part in such a trip or exchange program. You simply learn so much subconsciously when you get to know new people and new cultures. I took a lot home with me from Canada, among other things I was able to improve my English skills a lot, which is absolutely necessary in the tourism industry but is far too rarely represented. I am very sure that if a trainee wants to take part in such an exchange in the future, I will support them 100%, because it was an incredible experience.

The only thing I didn't like so much was the breakfast there, because it was all a bit too sweet and too hearty for me.

In closing, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Mr. Petersen, without whom this trip would never have happened. Thank you very much for the incredibly wonderful time!

## The journey from the coordinator's perspective

After these very personal reports from the trainees, as coordinator and accompanying teacher, I would like to describe the trip from this/my point of view. Since pictures always say more than a thousand words, I will only briefly review the itinerary and then refer to photos that you can find online via a QR code.

An accompanying teacher is probably only really relaxed when all participants have returned home safe and sound. It was no different for me - but even during my time in Nova Scotia I was happy about the many impressions that our trainees were able to gather and also how consciously they represented BS27 and their training companies.

In the photos and some videos you will mainly see the participants of the trip - me less often, since I took many of these photos, made sure that we arrived on time for all the program items, and I was also the driver. Since local public transport in Nova Scotia basically doesn't exist, this option was essential. Looking back, the rented 7-seater served us well and we drove a total of about 2,500 kilometers. This is also due to the fact that the Nautical Institute and the School of Fisheries are located at almost opposite ends of Nova Scotia. Our travel movements look like this:



Including the flight, we actually covered almost 14,000 kilometers. As already mentioned in this report, what we were able to experience required planning and support from the NSCC and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers **Steven Baxter** (Nautical School) and **Joe Grandy** (School of Fisheries). Both of them were on site with me to look after our trainees and showed us Nova Scotia as only locals can. This made the impressions we were able to gather on this trip all the more authentic.

## Week 1 – Nautical Institute, Port Hawkesbury



(L-R: Stephan Petersen, Lena Marie Schenk, Sebastian Schenk, Alexander Beckmann, Jaqueline Wegehaupt, Léon Kasper)

On **Sunday**, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, we took off from Hamburg Airport around noon and flew to Halifax via Frankfurt. We landed at around 6:00 p.m. local time. After picking up the rental car, we arrived at the Nautical Institute's student dormitory after a rainy 270 kilometers or 3 hours of driving. Steven Baxter was already waiting for us there at this late hour and handed us the keys to our rooms.

Am On **Monday**, May 27<sup>th</sup>, our group was welcomed by **John Suresh Selvaraj** and **Tracy Scott**, among others, in the Main Campus Theater at the Nautical Institute, which is located right next to the student residence, and received basic information about the school.





Afterwards, the trainees went to the Fire Training Centre where, after a very thorough briefing by NSCC employees **Henry Ryan** and **Sachin Sachin**, they took part in a fire drill inside a building and were able to practice putting on breathing apparatus.

Although it is a building on the grounds of the Nautical Institute, the interior is designed in the structure of a ship in order to realistically simulate and fight fires in ships.

Then we went to the nearby Ocean Innovation Center at the Strait of Conso. After a short briefing and being equipped with seaworthy clothing, we went out on the water on two high-speed lifeboats and the trainees were able to learn how to handle the lifeboats and rescue a dummy with the appropriate equipment from the water in a man overboard simulation. The best moment for me was when one of the lifeboats had an engine failure shortly before docking and the trainees professionally helped to maneuver the lifeboat safely to the dock and load it onto the appropriate trailer. Our hosts also really appreciated this active support. Afterwards we were able to look inside a freefall boat, which could also be lowered.



In the evening we went shopping together in the supermarket and the trainees' impressions were varied - everything from great to expensive was there.

On **Tuesday**, May 28<sup>th</sup>, we went on a tour of the campus building. We were able to visit the various workshops and talk to the teachers about their lessons. The navigation simulator rooms and the rooms where work with ship engines is simulated were particularly interesting.





After this theoretical input, the trainees went to the Nautical Institute's wave tank, where they first practiced putting on the survival suits - within a minute and in a pitch-black swimming pool hall. In an emergency, this exact situation can arise on a ship and our trainees managed to get into the survival suits on the first attempt without any problems.

They then went into the pool with these to practice various survival techniques. This was followed by using life jackets and setting up a life raft and getting into it from the water.

This was followed by an explanation of how rescue equipment is attached to ships but can detach itself from the hull in an emergency.

In the afternoon we went back to the simulators. First to the engine room. In these rooms a very loud alarm sounds whenever there is an error - which also motivated us to correct the errors very quickly. Then we went to the navigation simulators. Here our trainees were able to drive four different types of ships using bridge simulators. The whole thing was so realistic that you could even feel the waves on the smallest type of ship.



I was particularly pleased that I rarely had to help the trainees by acting as a translator. They were always actively involved in discussions with the NSCC instructors and had the simulators explained to them and asked questions to ensure they could use them correctly. If you look at the pictures online, you can also see some of this ability to communicate.

On **Wednesday**, May 29<sup>th</sup>, we stopped for breakfast at Tim Hortons - this is also Canadian culture - and went to the Caribou Ferry Terminal to take a Northumberland Ferries ferry to Prince Edward Island (PEI). It's hard to say whether it was because of the breakfast stop - we arrived at the ferry terminal 3 minutes late and missed the 8:30 ferry.

As we had to bridge the time until the next ferry, we drove to the nearby town of Pictou and first visited the Grohmann Knives company, which is of German origin and is famous among sailors for its knives that are very good for rigging.

This was followed by a visit to the Hector Heritage Quay Museum - it's all about the famous ship Hector, which was part of the first significant migration of Scottish settlers to Nova Scotia in 1773. A replica of the original ship is currently being built there and the trainees really enjoyed this maritime part of the museum.

At 11:45 a.m. we then boarded the next ferry to PEI and met up again with Brent Myatt, who is being trained on ferries of Northumberland Ferries. His company invited us to visit the bridge and engine room of the ferry, which we gratefully accepted.



Once on PEI, we used the time until the next ferry departure to talk to a local fisherman and it was even possible to visit the three nearby Woods Family Lighthouses.



In the evening, we went to the Maritime Inn restaurant in Antigonish at the invitation of the NSCC. There we met not only employees of the Nautical Institute, such as **John Suresh Selvaraj**, who heads the Nautical Institute, but also the headmaster **Vivek Saxena** and NSCC International Manager **Zoran Kondali**, who the trainees already knew from Hamburg and who traveled from Halifax to Antigonish especially for this meal. I would also like to extend my special thanks to these three gentlemen, as they are also responsible for the success of this exchange program.



On **Thursday**, May 30<sup>th</sup>, we visited the Everwind Terminals company at the Point Tupper industrial port. There we were received by manager **David Hart**, who gave us a presentation explaining Everwind's areas of responsibility - in particular the new hydrogen business area, which is also growing due to contracts with the Federal Republic of Germany. Furthermore, education consultant **Lois Landry** explained to our trainees which requirements and opportunities exist for starting work at Everwind.

After this theoretical part, we went on a bus tour of the company premises, where we saw many oil and gas tanks that represent Everwind's original area of business.

Finally, we went to Everwind's landing stage where the seagoing vessels are unloaded.

This company tour was especially interesting because much of the work there is carried out in the Port of Hamburg by *Specialist in Port Logistics* who are also trained at BS27.





Our next cultural highlight was a visit to the *Friends United International Convention Center*, which was founded by the German emigrant **Rolf Bouman**, who not only gave us a warm welcome, but also informed us in detail about his life and his projects. *Friends United* strives to promote the art of indigenous population in Canada and enables artists to create, exhibit and market their art.

The building in which this takes place has inspired the trainees and me very much. In addition, the artist **Jasyn Lucas** not only told us about his indigenous art in a lecture, but also gave us insights into his life. I can only confirm that this has inspired the trainees, as the trainees talked about their experiences at Friends United for a long time. Many thanks to both of them for this!







On **Friday**, May 31<sup>st</sup>, we had our last official program day. Together with Steven Baxter, we drove to Baddeck to the Alexander Graham Bell Museum, which is dedicated to his inventions. As is well known, this includes the telephone, but also his experiments with a hydrofoil, which was designed and built near Baddeck.

Although museums can generally be a challenge for students, the maritime part of Bell's inventions was of great interest to the trainees. The real highlight, however, was a German emigrant who works in the museum shop and had to report in detail about his experiences in Canada.

After a stopover for lunch at *Big Spruce Brewing*, we went hiking in nature. The fact that North Americans are close to nature was already evident in the trainees' reports - in this respect, a hike in nature for us was only logical. The destination was also tempting – the *Uisge Bàn Falls*. The waterfalls were actually very nice, which made the mosquitoes bearable on the way there. Especially since **Christena Macmillan** (NSCC), who often accompanied us this week, was able to provide everyone with mosquito spray. Thank you very much **not** only for this support!



**Saturday**, June 1<sup>st</sup>, was our day off and since Steven Baxter had time, we planned to visit the *Skyline Trail* on the coast of *Cape Breton* together. Unfortunately, the weather on the coast deteriorated and we headed to *Baddeck* where the two Canadian navy ships *HMCS Glace Bay* and *HMCS Shawinigan* were in port for an open day. Another maritime highlight on our trip and of course we immediately checked how the rescue equipment is attached to the ship - of course exactly as we had learned it during the week. The trainees had a lively conversation with the marines and also learned something about their deployment on the Baltic Sea during an exercise under German leadership.





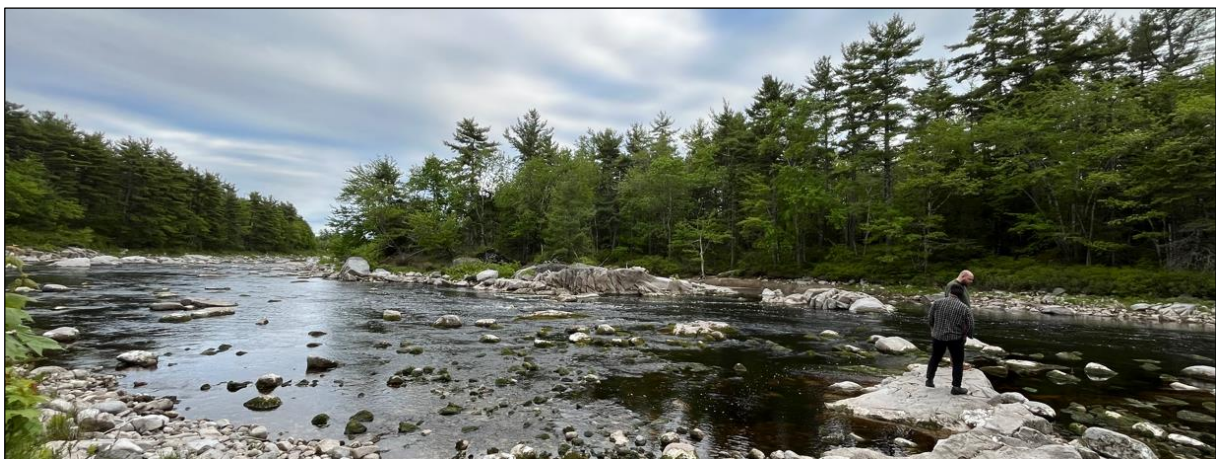
On **Sunday**, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will head to the south of Nova Scotia to the *School of Fisheries* in *Shelburne*. Of course, everyone was sad to leave *Port Hawkesbury* after a fantastic week – also because saying goodbye to Steven Baxter the day before was difficult for all of us. So once again many thanks to Steven for all his support.

So that the almost 500-kilometer journey didn't become too boring, we interrupted our journey halfway in Halifax, which the trainees were also supposed to get to know. This weekend, the *SailGP* took place in *Halifax* and the harbor was accordingly well attended - including the German sailing team, which we had already seen on the outbound flight. Of



course, we also took one of the two harbor ferries to the other side of the bay.

After some sightseeing in *Halifax*, we finally went on to *Shelburne*, where we moved into our cottages in picturesque surroundings in the evening. Since supermarkets in Canada have different opening hours, we even managed to shop before closing time.





## Week 2 – School of Fisheries, Shelburne

On **Monday**, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, we were welcomed by **Duane Dakin** as headmaster and **Joe Grandy** as teacher at the *School of Fisheries*, were given a guided tour of the school building and learned first details about the training of fishermen in Nova Scotia. An important part of this training is working with nautical charts and our trainees got to know this work in more detail on the first day. It should be noted here that the port boatmen in Hamburg do not work with charts, as sailing in the Port of Hamburg operates on sight. In this respect, this nautical field of nautical knowledge was absolutely new territory for everyone.

Joe was able to clearly explain the work with nautical charts and so all of the trainees worked for several hours (!) - of course with breaks - in a highly motivated manner, even if there may have been skepticism at the beginning. This is almost a novelty for me, as it is often difficult to maintain interest in lessons lasting over 90 minutes.



It became exciting for all participants at the end of this theory day when the calculations of the course changes for a trip through the port of *Halifax* were entered into the simulator.





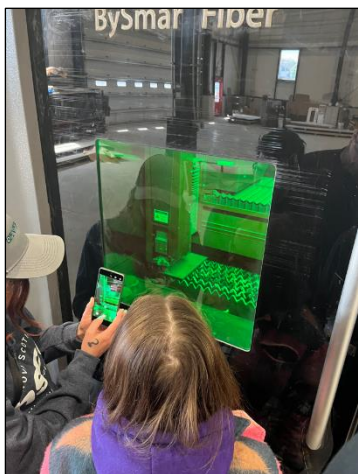
After this successful theoretical first day of school, we went to *Boxing Rock* in the evening, which belongs to the *Boxing Rock Brewing Company*, which has its origins in Shelburne.

The name of this company is based on the maritime legend that in the good old seafaring days, captains liked to abandon brawlers on a rock in the harbor off *Shelburne*, with the option of either fighting or drinking a beer together. Legend has it that the quarrelsome people often opted for the latter as an “emergency alliance”.

We didn't beat each other in *Boxing Rock* either but spent a nice evening with Duane.



On **Tuesday**, June 4th, we went to the nearby town of *Lunenburg*, which, as the name suggests, has diverse German roots. In *Lunenburg*, we first visited *ABCO Industries*. The name *ABCO* stands for *Atlantic Bridge Company*, as **Jason Huskilson** (*ABCO* Vice President) told us during the welcome speech - but the company has only built one bridge. The main business is metal construction with a specialization in aluminum shipbuilding. We could all see this during the tour with Jason Huskilson. The precision with which the aluminum parts are manufactured is also highly interesting.



After the visit to *ABCO*, Joe showed us more of *Lunenburg*, which he knows very well as a former place of residence, so we walked across the fishing port, which was overflowing with lobster baskets after the end of the fishing season, into the actual harbor of *Lunenburg*. On this day, the famous sailing ship *Bluenose II*, which we had seen in the harbor of *Halifax* on Sunday, was moored there again.



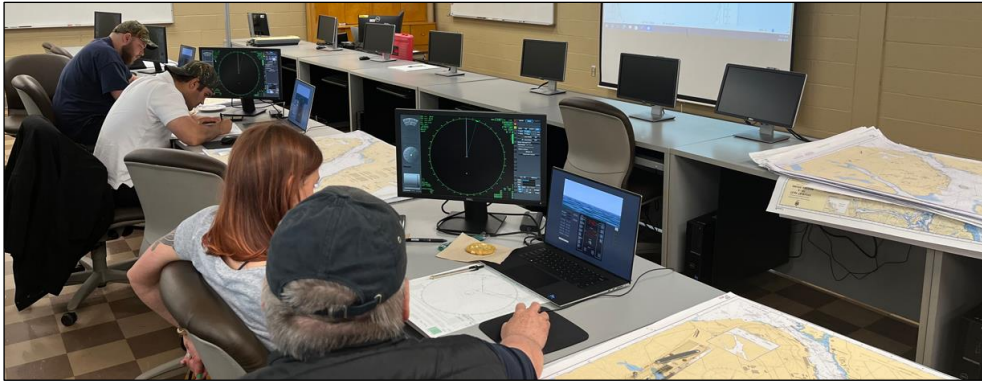
As a real Hamburg port boatman, it is of course difficult to refuse a harbor tour. In this respect, a corresponding offer in *Lunenburg* was gratefully accepted and together with some US tourists who had also once lived in Germany, we went on a very amusing tour in the course of which several trainees took the helm. Tour guide Andre was very happy about this professional support.



After the harbor tour and a visit to one of the many fish restaurants, Joe showed us more sights in *Lunenburg*. These included the beautiful colorful wooden houses, the many old churches, an old cemetery where many gravestones had German names on them, the *Lunenburg Academy* and a hiking trail on an old railway line.

On our way back to *Shelburne*, we didn't take the *highway* but drove along the coastal road. So Joe was able to show us *Crescent Beach*, a car beach that offered the opportunity to swim.

On **Wednesday**, June 5<sup>th</sup>, we went back to classes at the *School of Fisheries* in the morning and due to the positive experiences at the beginning of the week, the anticipation was great. This time the question was whether ships in the vicinity cross our own course and, if so, how to react to this. For this purpose, radar images now had to be evaluated in order to successfully make appropriate corrections to one's own course.



In the afternoon, after a lunch break, we went to the fishing port of *Shelburne*. Once there, we boarded **Liam Harding's** lobster boat and drove past aquaculture farms towards the Atlantic - including the already familiar survival suits.

These were then allowed to be put on and instead of going into a pool, the trainees now jumped into open water. The lobster boat temporarily moved away from the trainees, and they now used the knowledge they had learned in the pool the week before. Even the rescue via a rescue cage was practiced. Our thanks go to Liam and Joe for this great experience on the open sea.

In the evening Joe showed us another beach - *Roseway Beach* . On the way to this beautiful beach, we could see the trail of devastation caused by forest fires in the previous year for several kilometers to the left and right of the road. Unfortunately, these effects of climate change also included the low water level of the *Roseway River* near our accommodation.





On **Thursday**, June 6<sup>th</sup>, it was time to slowly say goodbye to the *School of Fisheries*. So we said goodbye to the employees there in the morning - at least to all those we would not see again at the farewell dinner in the evening. As a teacher, I am of course aware of how important the school office and administration staff are, and my thanks go beyond just the coffee and food supplied!



Afterwards, we drove together with **Joe Grandy** and **Tammie Chrisholm** to a company tour at *Fisherman's Market*, which mainly sells lobsters. Since the catch of lobster is rather atypical for Germany, this visit was very interesting.





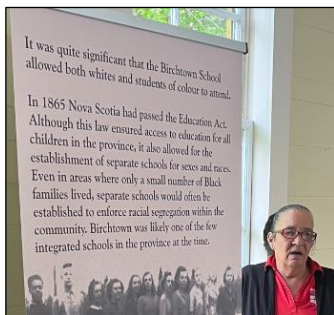
After visiting a lighthouse in coastal fog and having lunch together at *Anchors Away*, we drove to our penultimate item on the agenda.

The *Black Loyalist Heritage Centre* in *Birchtown* is just a few miles from *Shelburne*. This museum is about the settlement of free blacks in Canada in the course of the American Revolutionary War in the 1780s. Since these blacks were loyal to the British royal family, they are called *Black Loyalists*.

The tour of the main building of the exhibition began with a lecture on the history of the *Black Loyalists* by students employed there, **Kady** and **Isaac**.

The second part of the tour took us out of the main building and was led by **Jessie Corrigan**, who grew up in the *Shelburne* area. So we first went to an old school building, which now belongs to the museum and where Jessie herself went to as a student. History can hardly be conveyed more vividly.

We then accompanied Jessie to the adjacent forest behind the school. There we could see a reconstructed



reconstructed *pit house* where *Black Loyalists* had to live after their arrival in Canada, as

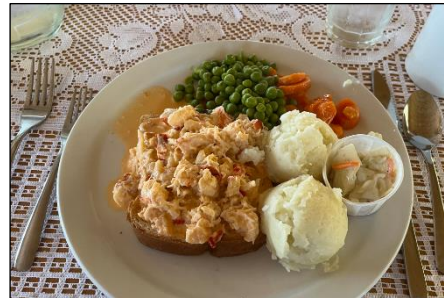
promised land donations were delayed. Further stops on this tour were a church and the old cemetery of the black population.





In the evening we went to the *Sandy Point Lighthouse Community Centre*, where our hosts from the *School of Fisheries* invited us to a typical lobster meal. There was a last reunion with **Duane Dakin**, who was accompanied by his wife Anne, as well as **Kailyn Harding** and **Liam Harding**. Furthermore, **Katie Orr**, Director of *NSCC International*, came to *Shelburne* from *Halifax* to see us off.

We were able to welcome another guest, **Nolan Young**, who is a member of the Nova Scotia House of Representatives and who spoke intensively with the trainees to find out more about dual vocational training in Germany. The best thing about this evening was the lively conversations over dinner in this large group. And the food prepared by the ladies of the kitchen team tasted wonderful to all of us - at least for me Lobster never tasted so good. Our heartfelt thanks go to all those involved for the hospitality they have shown to us!!!



Of course, we couldn't just drive back to our accommodation after such a great evening and therefore took a walk along *Dock Street* in *Shelburne* - we really liked this part of town as well. The conversations with the trainees that evening made it even clearer to me how comfortable they felt during our two weeks in Canada.



On **Friday**, June 7<sup>th</sup>, it was time to finally say goodbye to *Shelburne*. Joe came to the cottages again in the morning to personally see us off! Of course we were all very happy about that! Afterwards we made our way to the airport in Halifax. However, since the flight would not take off until the evening, two more stops were made along the way.



The first stop on our return journey was one of Nova Scotia's tourist highlights - the famous *Peggy's Cove lighthouse*. Even despite the fog, this place always looks like a postcard and invites you to dream.



Arriving in Halifax, we went to the *Maritime Museum of the Atlantic*. There, the trainees learned about the sinking of the *Titanic*, the *Halifax explosion* and many other maritime topics.



In the late afternoon we drove to the airport, dropped off the rental car and checked in. Our plane left *Halifax* on time for Frankfurt, where we boarded the plane to Hamburg on June 8<sup>th</sup> in the morning, which we also reached on time, exhausted from the flight. The end of a wonderful journey!

## Personal conclusion

My travel companions have always behaved in an exemplary manner in Canada and every day with them was a lot of fun. Of course, not every wish could be fulfilled, as you inevitably have to make compromises in a group, but they never harmed the good mood. In this respect, I would love to travel with this group again and again.



I was once again impressed by the hospitality and the welcoming culture of the Canadians. The trainees also noticed this, as can be seen from the reports above.

I am also pleased with how committed the teachers and staff of the NSCC have been to the trainees of BS27 and I hope that this will be felt on the Canadian side as well with regard to our activities during the visit of the Canadians to Hamburg before our trip.

Hopefully, we can give many more Canadian and German trainees a view of the other side of the Atlantic.

Therefore, I would like to thank all those involved within the JHF, the NSCC and BS27, without whom this project and the joint partnership would not exist!

**Stephan Petersen**

Last but not least, the promised link where the supplementary photos/videos/documents to this travelogue can be viewed:



**Please click here for photos/videos/documents!**



<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/en/learn/scholarships-for-students-and-trainees/azubis-go-usa-canada>

<https://www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de/en/teach/exchange-funding/gate>