

Ferry Receives Tsunami Alert

It was Sunday 13th November around eight o'clock. We were waiting in our car in a line to drive onto the Interislander. Suddenly the line started moving and we were able to drive into the front of the ship. (the bow)

We parked up, walked inside the kids play area and ate our dinner, which was sushi. When we finished our dinner we started watching a movie on Mum's computer. It was the Minions.

I got bored watching a movie, so I started teaching a little boy how to 'dab' and he got it! Then I started doing the bottle flip and I copped it! We started watching a movie called 'Sunshine on Leith' which is a Scottish movie and it's set in my favourite place - Edinburgh.

I dozed off on the floor, because the floor was soooo comfy! When I woke up we were sailing into the Marlborough Sounds and we had to go down to our cars to prepare to disembark. We were already passing Allports Island, which meant we were about fifteen minutes from arriving in Picton. We were down on the lowest deck, in the hull of the ship for about twenty minutes, just waiting to be told what to do next. I was pleased to be getting off the ship as we had been on it for over three hours.

After a short while there was an announcement saying there had been an earthquake and we wouldn't be allowed to get off the boat, because the wharf in Picton was damaged. The boat creaked and groaned as usual, but we hadn't even felt an earthquake or aftershocks.

We climbed back up to the topdeck of the ship and we started watching another movie. We were given free hot chocolate from the cafe and we got asked to go to sleep, because they were dimming the lights. It was now about half past twelve and I guessed that we would have to sleep onboard until morning.

I couldn't get to sleep, because my brother was playing on the computer. A man put on a radio and we heard that there was a tsunami warning. I was really worried, because I thought it was going to come into Picton and destroy our house. I had learned about Tsunamis at school and had seen the damage that one had done to Japan. I felt like I was in the worst place in the world. I got more free hot

chocolate and it helped to take my mind off it. I was thankful that I was with my family. I was so tired that I finally fell asleep.

When I woke up there was free breakfast in the cafe. I had bacon, eggs, sausages, tomatoes, toast and hash browns. It was pretty yummy! The sun was up so I walked outside to see what was happening, but all I saw was water - NO BIG WAVE THANK GOODNESS!

It was a long wait! We waited.....and waited....and waited! It was about five hours before we could finally disembark. It was great to get off the ship. We were finally off the ocean after being on the ship for fifteen hours!

We drove home through Picton and saw that the building next to the ice cream parlour in the main street had fallen down. We were worried about our own house and were expecting to find all the crockery on the floor, but to our surprise there was no damage to our house at all.

I'm so glad that our house was in one piece and my family are safe!

By Dylan