This was a nice read. As someone who would rather stick around than go on a foreign adventure, it's neat to delve into your perspective and read about your experiences. As Calvin mentioned, the flow is nice, but I think there's room for improvement on a smaller scale. I noticed a large number of commas used throughout, and while sentences with a lot of commas, or commas in close proximity, are valid, they are not, on average, as easy to read, and can produce sentences that feel too long to read; a bite-size sentence is easy for our brains to take in and process.

Paying attention to grammar, I noticed some other things that would most accurately be described as nitpicky. I realize nitpicks vary in how well they're received. Don't get me wrong, though. The grammar is better than most things I read from day to day, especially with respect to comma placement.

* "Queen's" is missing the apostrophe in two places.
* "Shads" has inconsistent capitalization.
* "southern Ontario" should be "Southern Ontario".
* "Would that mean that I should stay and go to university in Thunder Bay (where the tuition and cost of living is much cheaper?)." - The sentence as a whole is a question; there's no need for a period.
* "Making matters worse, were the fact" - The comma is extraneous and "were" should be "was".
* "tears flowing down my mom’s eyes" - Perhaps "flowing from my mom's eyes" or "flowing down my mom's face/cheeks"
* "Shad programmer coordinator" - It seems like you were going for "Shad program coordinator".
* "Wow! I thought, this university is really nice!" - Quoting or italicizing the internal dialogue might help to separate them from the narration. In any case, I'd probably replace the comma with a period, or reworking it, e.g., "I remember thinking how nice the university looked."
* "I learned a lot from the other students, because I respected their opinions even though they were the same age or very similar in age to me." - This one felt awkward to read. I'd recommend reworking it. One idea: "Even though the other students were very similar to me in age, I ended up learning a lot from them."
* "I was impressed with the architecture, and the size of the Kingston campus." - The comma feels very extraneous. I'm under the impression you have a specific way you imagine this being read aloud.
* "Partly because, I related well to them" - Another extraneous comma.
* "This knowledge I would later take back with me" - Another awkward bit. The more natural order would be "I would later take this knowledge back with me".
* "extent at which" should likely be "extent to which".
* "at University of Waterloo" should be "at the University of Waterloo".
* "love - hate" shouldn't have spaces around the hyphen. Worse yet, Word turned it into an en dash.