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August 26, 2020

Valerie Knowles  
Zonta Club of Ottawa  
554 Piccadilly Avenue  
Ottawa, ON  
K1Y 0J1.

Dear Valerie,

It was a much unexpected but very welcome surprise to receive your letter; please accept our sincere thanks for the very kind donation from the Zonta Club for Odyssey Theatre.

I apologize for the delay in writing. We, along with all of the groups in Arts Court, have been unable to collect mail from Canada Post for the past month and we only recently received your letter.

We are disappointed not to be in the park this year and sorry not to be partnering with you on our Preview Night. At the same time, we have been excited to launch our online series, *A Virtual Odyssey*. Our first events have been very successful, including a new play reading, mask and puppet making workshops for children and *Strathcona Park Diaries*, a 16-episode video community arts series. We are working hard on a podcast series of modern retellings of folktales and a webinar exploring the richness of mask and movement theatre.

Given Zonta's wonderful support for young artists, we want to apply your donation to our month-long Youth Theatre Apprenticeship program which is taking place online this year. Twelve high school students from across the region, participated in 10 free workshops with professional theatre artists, learning about acting, creation, design and directing. They also had a session with 10 professional actors demonstrating performance, concluding with a special Q&A discussion.

The program just concluded last night with a special performance by our talented apprentices in front of an invited audience and our actors, where we announced Zonta's donation. I have attached a photo showing our wonderful young artists and Laurie Steven displaying Zonta's cheque. (If you need a close-up of her with the cheque please let me know). We are also pleased to recognize Zonta's support on our web site, newsletter and other promotional materials. I hope you concur with this direction of your funds.

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Please pass on our very sincere thanks and appreciation to all the members of the Zonta Club for your support.

Wishing you a very safe and healthy rest of your summer and fall.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Forster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

John Forster  
Chair  
Odyssey Theatre