

## Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada news items for the District 2 Spring 2025 newsletter

Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada  
President Renuka Gamage

### **Ninety-Five Years and Going Strong! Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada and the Ottawa Little Theatre partner in support of education awards**

This February, the Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada (ZCO CA) kicked off the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Zonta International charter with a fundraising venture in partnership with the Ottawa Little Theatre (OLT). The OLT kindly offered us a preview performance of *The Shawshank Redemption*, the ticket sales of which raised more than CAD 3,000.

The proceeds will support our annual education awards program for high-school and post-secondary girls and women. During the past 40 years, ZCO CA has raised and awarded close to CAD 176,000 to girls and women seeking continuing education. Currently, we offer six different awards, providing financial assistance for the pursuit of studies in several fields, including Business, Leadership and Theatre Arts. One now-famous recipient of our Theatre Arts Award was Sandra Oh. The program also provides financial assistance to a new immigrant woman who is a single mother, raising a family while working on her education at any level, and financial recognition to two high school aged awardees for outstanding leadership and community service.

Our audience was very impressed by this compelling play, and commented on how much they admired the adaptation, direction, set design, and acting in the OLT production. We are always grateful for the opportunity to partner with local talent to raise funds in support of our work to support girls and women in the National Capital Region and internationally. This ZCO CA-OLT partnership was a resounding success!



Photo caption: Zonta Club of Ottawa Canada Board members kick off the Club's 95<sup>th</sup> year at the ZCO CA-Ottawa Little Theatre fundraiser (photo credit: William Clarke)

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## Local optical clinics support Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada in honour of International Women's Day 2025

Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada Board and Members sincerely thank Dr. Kirsten North and Dr. Joelle Zagury from [Merivale Vision Care](#) and [Wellington Vision Care](#) for their generous donations from their International Women's Day fundraiser. Both optical clinics donated \$10 of each purchase of glasses during the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. A total of \$1190 was raised, which will help fund our ZCO CA 2025 Education Awards. We thank the staff and all who purchased glasses during that week!



*March 8th, 2025*

# Women's DAY

From March 3-7, we're donating \$10 from every pair of glasses sold to the Zonta Club of Ottawa, supporting initiatives that uplift and empower women in our community.



## **Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada celebrates International Women's Day 2025 with two youth leaders on climate justice and business**

The Zonta Club of Ottawa celebrated International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day with a breakfast on March 8<sup>th</sup> featuring guest speaker Sanjh Sandhu. The theme of this year's International Women's Day was "Accelerate Action." This theme calls for urgent action to address gender inequality and eliminate barriers that prevent women from reaching their full potential.

Our club's climate justice advocacy supports the theme, and we invited Sanjh to speak to us in our ongoing efforts to educate ourselves on climate justice. Sanjh is a co-op student at Waterloo University in the Geography and Environmental Management Program. She shared an overview of her current co-op placement in Ottawa with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

We were also thrilled to have Miriam Braiter, and her mother, Helen, join us at the breakfast. Miriam was awarded our club's 2024 Jane M. Klausman (JMK) Women in Business Scholarship and went on to win the District 2 and Zonta International 2024 JMK awards! Selected because of her academic excellence and leadership, Miriam is a Commerce student at Carleton University and hopes to pursue a career in accounting to ease people's struggles with accounting, financing, and budgeting.





Photo caption: Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada members and family celebrate International Women's Day with guest speaker Sanjh Sandhu (middle) and 2024 Zonta International JMK Women in Business in Scholarship winner Miriam Braiter (second from right) and Miriam's mother (far right), Helen (photo credit: McKenna North)



Photo caption: Zonta Club of Ottawa Board members Kirsten North, Renuka Gamage, and Cindy O'Neil with and 2024 Zonta International JMK Women in Business in Scholarship winner Miriam Braiter