

Zoey Ross | Text Transcript | CSAHS Award Recognition 2020

Hello Mayor Mathieson, my name is Zoey Ross and I am a Political Science and Theater student at the University of Guelph. I'm very honored and happy to receive the Dan Mathieson Scholarship for this year.

It is the first scholarship that I've ever won like it and for context I think it's important to share that I'm the first person in my family to ever go to university, and I just- I don't mean the only person in my immediate family or the only person of a generation. I am the first person to ever go to university in my family.

My grandparents are from Jamaica and Ireland respectively and I'm so grateful to be honored with this scholarship. It means a lot to me and in turn a lot to my family to be recognized for my community involvement and I'm personally quite appreciative of it as well.

I think it's so cool that this award also comes from you, the longtime Mayor of Stratford. People seem to really love you there. You've been there since 1995. I'm quite happy to hear of your success and I wish you many happy returns. It must be nice to be at the central spot of politics and culture being in Stratford. It's two poles that I think really connect closely with my work.

I'm really interested in making art and theater for the modern working person, and that means contextually accessible as well. So, hopefully one day I will be able to send you tickets for a play that I'm working on and if I don't see you there, maybe I'll be able to send you a letter from the privy council just letting you know it's up now that I'm working in the big office, but honestly it would be a pleasure to serve in any capacity in the civil service.

Those are my aspirations in the future, but in all I just want to say thanks. It means a lot and I hope to meet you one day when this pandemic is over, maybe get a brew, maybe watch a play. All that would be great. Have an excellent day, stay healthy, be well, and thank you.