

Bustamante 'worked' for spot in Hall of Fame

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

A long-time Markham resident, already a member of Chatelaine magazine's Who's Who of Canadian Women, has been inducted into the town's Seniors Hall of Fame.

Mayor Don Cousens and council rose to give Rosalina Bustamante, 70, a standing ovation as she received her award Tuesday night during the Markham Seniors 2000 Awards.

"By far Rosalina's most outstanding and unique achievements have been in the area of community relations," said selection committee member Tilley Murray.

"This multi-awarded Canadian has not only been recognized within educational circles but likewise by provincial and municipal governments for her invaluable contribution to multicultur-

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Rosalina Bustamante, honoured Markham senior

alism in Canada and the Markham community," she said.

Bustamante holds a Master's degree in education and has spent 18 years volunteering as a heritage language teacher and mentor. She is vice-chair of the Mayor's task force on race relations and in 1992 received an award for her outstanding contribution to the promotion of race relations in Markham.

"I am very proud of my work, very proud of my ethnocultural heritage and I am also very proud to be Canadian," Bustamante said.

Three seniors were given the town's meritorious award Tuesday, as well for their work in the community.

Marion Damude, 84, was close to tears as she accepted hers from selection committee member Raj Sethi, who told council she was known in seniors circles as Mother Hen.

Damude, who launched the lunch-out program for seniors more than 20 years ago and volunteered her time to read to a blind woman every day for five years, said she lives by a philosophy she calls HELP—hugs and humour, empathy and effort, love and laughter, praise and prayer.

Dorothy Gilbert, 76, began the Meals on Wheels program in 1971 after learning no such program existed in York Region. She ran it until CHATS took it over in 1988.

Jim Wicks, 60, a 20-year member of the Lions Club, followed in the footsteps of his parents who always told him to give back, he told council.

He drives buses for sports teams, seniors trips and Participation House residents as well as working at the Markham Hamper Club.

Seniors receiving certificates of appreciation include Joe Fellin, Jeshtram Mehta, Kenneth Frederick Moore, Savita Patel, Kamil Sadiq, 69 and Eric Schofield.



STAFF PHOTOS/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Marion Damude is applauded at the Markham Senior Awards ceremony Tuesday at the Civic Centre. She launched a lunch program for seniors in the community.



James Wicks pauses while making a speech at the 2000 Markham Seniors Awards on Tuesday. The Lions Club member was one of the honoured Markham residents.

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