

Angel, athlete, scientist, humanitarian honoured

Outstanding citizens receive awards

An awards ceremony last week was billed as an event to honour an angel, an athlete, a scientist and a humanitarian.

The four residents were presented with Markham's award for outstanding citizenship Wednesday night.

"Angel" honours went to Lesley Price, who won the environmental achievement award.

Known as "Markham's angel," Ms Price has worked for two decades to preserve and rehabilitate the town's heritage and natural environment.

Marlene Stewart Streit, the "athlete" among the honourees, was presented with the sports and recreations achievement award.

Last year, at the age of 69, she was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame, making her the first Canadian to receive the prestigious title.

Ms Stewart Streit, who has

spent five decades in the world of golf, is also past director and president of the Ada Mackenzie Memorial Foundation, which raises funds for Canada's disabled athletes.

A recipient of an Order of Canada this year, Allan Carswell is the group's "scientist."

He was given the science and engineering achievement award for years dedicated to developing laser radar technology, also known as lidar.

NASA will use the technology during its 2007 Phoenix mission to Mars.

Mr. Carswell was also recognized for his contribution to Boy Scouts of Canada leadership programs, medical research and for establishing Canada's first fully-licensed small business daycare when he opened his company, Optech International, in 1974.

Taking home the community service achievement award was "humanitarian" Brian Murphy.

He was honoured for his commitment as a community

worker and fundraiser.

Mr. Murphy operates Street Connection, a weekly venture from Markham to impoverished areas of Toronto during which he provides a hot meal and clothing to people in need.

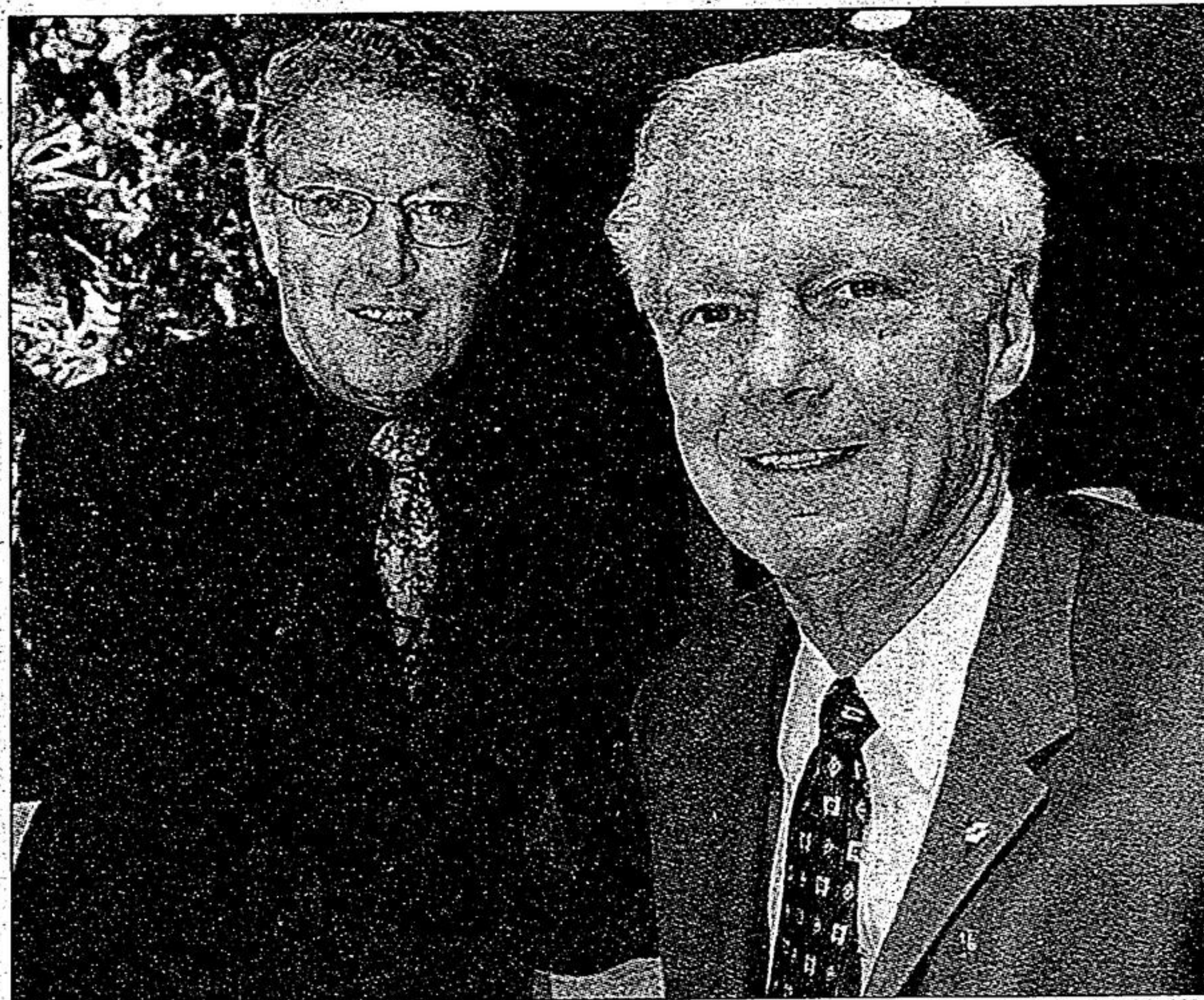
The annual awards were established in 1985 to recognize residents, associations, businesses and corporations who have made an outstanding contribution to the community and brought recognition to the town.

"We are proud of this year's (award) recipients," said Councillor Bill O'Donnell, chairperson of this year's ceremony.

"They inspire us all to do the best for our community."

In addition to Mr. O'Donnell, members of the awards committee are Karine Chui, Lisa Kassabian, Ralph Persram, David Taylor, Gaetano Vella, Ken Wade and councillors George McKelvey and Khalid Usman.

— Lisa Queen



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Brian Murphy (left) and Dr. Allan Carswell were among the citizens honoured at Wednesday's award ceremony.

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SPECIAL GUESTS

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