



Markham Mantra Lions Club

MANTRA NOW

Service is our Mantra

Quarterly Newsletter of Markham Mantra Volume 1, Issue # 2 July 1, 2026

Presidents Message



Dear Fellow Lions and Friends,

Markham Mantra Lions Club, is a group of like-minded Lions who share the commitment and passion in making the difference in the community. Through our collective efforts, we are making a meaningful difference in

our community. Whether it is supporting those facing hunger, caring for our seniors, protecting the environment, or participating in other service initiatives, each project reflects the spirit of Lionism — our mission--

SERVICE IS OUR MANTRA

I would like to sincerely thank all our members and volunteers who generously give their time-effort and energy serving others by supporting and donating in projects like Markham Food Bank for HUNGER,, used winter clothing for YOUTH & HUMANTRAIAN Adopt a park and Tree planation for ENVOIRNMENT books & Toys for children suffering for CHILDHOOD CANCER or raising funds for Diabetes Canada, Kidney Foundation, Heart & Stroke foundation, CNIB, Guiding dog of Canada, and others.

Our service initiatives supporting the Lions Club International-- Global Causes of Lionism, including: Vision, Hunger, Environment, Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Humanitarian Efforts, Youth, and Disaster Relief

I am deeply grateful to all our members who generously volunteer their time & energy, with compassion.--- Let us all continue to work together with enthusiasm, compassion, and unity to make a lasting difference in lives of many.

If you are inspired by our mission motive & actives, we warmly welcome you to loin our Lions club and be part of this fun loving compassionate team and make the difference in the community.

Yours in Lionism

Gulshan Sethi

Certified Guiding Lion

President

Markham Mantra Lions Club (2024-2026)

District Governor's Message

Fellow Lions, Leos, and Friends,

Congratulations to the members of the Markham Mantra Lions Club on the launch of your first newsletter. This is an excellent initiative that will help keep both your membership and the broader community informed, engaged, and connected to the important work of the club.



As part of Lions Clubs International, the Markham Mantra Lions Club joins a global network of dedicated volunteers committed to making a difference. Lions around the world focus their service through the Global Causes: Vision, Hunger, Environment, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer, Youth, Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Relief, areas where our collective efforts can have the greatest impact.

This newsletter will serve as a valuable communication tool to highlight service activities, celebrate achievements, and share opportunities for involvement. It reflects the spirit of transparency, collaboration, and community engagement that is at the heart of Lionism.

Thank you to all members for your dedication and commitment to service. The work you do continues to make a meaningful difference in Markham and beyond.

Wishing you continued success as you grow, serve, and inspire others.

Yours in Lionism,

A16 District Governor Lion Martin Jones

Mantra Lions Meeting

Members of Mantra Lions meet every first
Wednesday of the month

Venue:

Milliken Mills Community Center
7600 Kennedy Rd, Markham, ON L3R 9S5

Mantra Now

Serving with Compassion * Community * Service * Leadership

Email: markhamlions@gmail.com

Message from Mayor Scarpitti - MANTRA NOW



Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

April 1, 2026

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SCARPITTI

On behalf of Members of Council and the City of Markham, I am pleased to extend my congratulations to the **Markham Mantra Lions Club** on the launch of your very first quarterly newsletter this April.

This exciting initiative is a wonderful way to keep residents, families, and friends informed about the meaningful work you do in our community. Your dedication to service, compassion, and volunteerism continues to make a positive and lasting impact in our community and beyond. By sharing your activities and achievements, you not only celebrate your efforts but also inspire others to get involved.

I encourage everyone to take the time to read this inaugural issue and learn more about the important role the Lions Club plays in strengthening our community. Your commitment serves as a powerful reminder that when we come together in service, we can make a real difference.

Best wishes on this milestone and continued success in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Scarpitti".

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor



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A New voice to the legacy of service above self. I would extend heartiest welcome to the inaugural issue of Mantra now, the official newsletter of Markham Mantra Lions.



Launching an initiative like newsletter is a small step towards giant leap of optimism. Its a moment to pause, go back to the drawing board and reflect upon our shared mission, plan for our service footprint and aim towards the horizon.

This newsletter represents more than a communication tool; it is a luminous nexus where we will share our stories, our community outreach, our impact and our vision for the like minded individuals we call Mantra Lions.

Why "Mantra"?

Its a repeated word or phrase when practiced time and again carries a magic cauldron of greatness. For Markham Mantra Lion members it reiterates our commitment to service above self. In a world that is ever so fragmented and faced with predicament of uncertainty, the simple and powerful act of being there for one another remains true of our core values.

We aim to bring the same core values forward through this initiative. From organizing food donation drives to collecting eye glasses and addressing the most important needs of our community, this will be our digital hearth where we put in context how we turn our values into action.

The Power of "Now"

The three letter word "Now" is very essential and intentional in the title. Its a call for action that resonates urgency. Service is not a passive hobby but it is a present-tense to commitment.

Mantra Now will serve as:

- A narrative of impact: Recognizing and projecting where your service commitment has made a tangible difference.
- A focal point of connection: Recognizing and introducing the faces behind the service and welcoming new members to our way of service mantra.
- A kaleidoscope to the future: Keeping us updated and aligned to upcoming projects and needs for our community.

Our Invitation to You

This newsletter belongs to every member of the Markham Mantra. It is a reflection of your dedication, your compassion, and your initiative. We want these pages to be vibrant, inclusive, and—above all—inspiring.

As we release this first edition, we invite you to be active contributors. If you have a story of a recent project, an idea for a community initiative, or a reflection on why you chose to serve, we want to hear it.

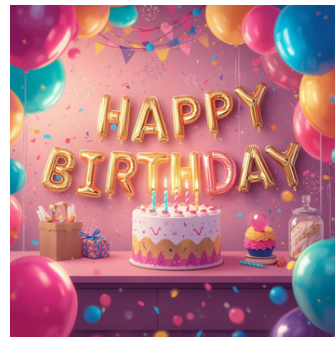
Thank you for being the heart of this club. Let this be the first of many chapters where we showcase the incredible things that happen when we work together with purpose. Onward and upward.

Lion Darshan Badrain

Upcoming Events

- April 13th 2026** - Food bank donation
- April 25th 2026** - District Convention
- May 3rd 2026** - Tree Plantation
- May 6th 2026** - Monthly meeting
- June 3rd 2026** - Monthly Meeting
- July 1st 2026** - Monthly Meeting
- September 2026** - Mantra Lions Gala & Fundraiser (details TBD).

Birthday Wishes



- April 1st: Lion Preeti Mahendroo
- April 4th Lion Sheela Sharma
- April 17th : Lion Bobby Maker
- May 1st : Lion Himadar Maddipatla
- May 8th : Lion Kavleen Badrain
- May 15th: Lion Hiren Patel
- May 19th: Lion Vincent Sinnadurai
- June 8th : Lion Harvinder Singh
- June 13th: Lion Susie Singh
- June 20th : Lion Rajeev Chopra
- June 24th Lion Poonam Gosain
- June 25th : Lion Harry Dhingra



1916
This first Lions logo reveals the organization's early ties to the Masons.



1918
Note the visual pun in this early logo: a Lion and a club.



1920
This rendering with monogrammed L and back-to-back lions is the basis for the logo today.



Evolution of Logo

Pillar of the club:

Solid as a Lion impactful journey of Lion Sudha Verma



Service is the heartbeat of the Lions, but our pillars are what give that service direction and strength. Whether we are tending to our local environment or supporting vision health, we lean on a framework of dedication that turns our collective roar into a meaningful local impact. However, these pillars are not just abstract values—they are built, brick by brick, through the personal commitment of our members.

“My journey within this organization began with a simple, singular passion: to serve the community. What started as an initial step of joining a club quickly evolved through active participation in local service projects and grassroots initiatives. It was in those early days, working side-by-side with fellow Lions, that I realized the true strength of our foundation lies in our willingness to show up and lead.

As my commitment grew, so did my responsibility. I moved from club-level participation into leadership roles within our Zone and Region, eventually expanding my involvement to the District level. These experiences prepared me for the profound honor of serving as District Governor (2023–2024). During that term, our focus remained steadfast on two essential pillars: Membership Growth and Service Impact. Leading the District through that pivotal year was a testament to what we can achieve when we align our passion with a clear vision.

While being honored with the District Excellence Award was a humbling recognition of those efforts, the true reward has always been the work itself. Today, I continue that mission as the Global Service Team (GST) Chair, where my focus is on supporting and inspiring our clubs to enhance their service outreach even further.” - Lion Sudha Verma

Our pillars are only as strong as the Lions who uphold them.

As we look toward our next chapter, we invite each of you to consider your own chronology of service. Whether you are just beginning or are a seasoned leader, your contribution is the bedrock upon which our future impact is built.

Why Did I Join Lions ?

When I Joined the Lions Club I had no idea where I was going and what I was heading into. But as I got involved into service it became a passion and a simple desire -- to give back to the community in a meaningful way. Coming from India where we grew up in an atmosphere where respect and service was very important, believed in the value of service. Lions International provided me with a structured platform to make a real difference while connecting with like minded individuals committed to Serve.



Journey as a Lion



Why Being A Lion is Important to Me ?

Being a Lion is not just about service. It is about Purpose, Compassion and Leadership.

It has given me the sense of belonging and fulfilment. understanding that every small effort contributes to a larger global impact. The Lions Motto "We Serve " Truly resonates deeply with my values.

Most Memorable Experience as a Lion

One of my most memorable recent experiences was when I was asked to walk with Our Indian National Flag at the MDA Convention at Port Elgin in Ontario to welcome Lions International President A P Singh. It really was a proud moment to hold the flag high and sing the Indian National Anthem.

Leading and Participating in impactful service initiatives especially during Hunger service week, Mental Health and wellness service week and other district -wide projects. Witnessing the direct impact of our service has been incredibly fulfilling.



Where Have I Represented Lions ?

I have had the privilege of representing Lions at various levels - Club President for four consecutive years, Zone Chair for two years, Region Chair for 2 years, moved to serving as 2nd Vice District Governor, 1st Vice District Governor and Serving as District Governor for the year 2023-2024 was a defining milestone in my journey, where I had the honor of leading, guiding, and inspiring fellow Lions across the District.

How Being A Lion Changed My Perspective ?

Being a Lion has made me more empathetic, more action oriented and more committed to serving beyond boundaries. I now see Service not just as an activity, but as a responsibility and a lifelong commitment.

Message for Future Generation Lions

I would request the future generation of lions to come forward and make this one of their activities where they will learn to Lead and Serve with dedication, Learn to embrace every opportunity to make a difference with their communities. Your efforts, no matter how small, can create a lasting ripple effect. You will enjoy many learning opportunities that will make you a stronger leader to come forward encouraging fellow lions to bring a change in someone's life.



Photo credit: LBJ library

Lions changed my life

I would never have been ambitious enough to run for Governor of Georgia. I would never have dreamed of being President of the United States if it were not for the Lions.

- President Jimmy Carter

Above & Beyond: Celebrating the Visionary Leadership of Lion Bobby Maker



The Markham Mantra Lions Club thrives on the spirit of service, but occasionally, an individual's dedication sets a new standard for what it means to be a Lion. In this inaugural issue, we shine a spotlight on Lion Bobby Maker, a man whose professional success as the President and CEO of CPVM Group is matched only by his profound commitment to his community.

Lion Bobby Maker has consistently made the club proud, not just through his presence, but through his ability to turn ambitious ideas into reality. His most notable contribution came to fruition in 2025 with the inauguration of the **Mantra Lions Cup**. As the club's very first golf tournament, this event did more than just bring enthusiasts together; it established a new tradition of fellowship and fundraising that will benefit our initiatives for years to come.

While his leadership within the club is transformative, Mr. Maker's impact extends far beyond our meetings. His philanthropy is deeply personal, driven by an unwavering commitment to a cause that affects millions. Following the passing of his father from kidney disease, he has been a steadfast and significant donor to The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Kidney disease is often called a "silent killer" because it can progress without any symptoms until the kidneys are severely damaged. Currently, one in ten Canadians lives with kidney disease, and for many, the journey involves grueling hours of dialysis—a treatment that cleans the blood when the kidneys no longer can.

Lion Brinder Maker is a well-known and highly respected figure. Whether he is navigating the complexities of the corporate world at CPVM Group or spearheading local charity drives, his approach remains the same: **lead with integrity and give with an open heart**. His dedication to turning personal loss into a lifeline for others exemplifies the true heart of a humanitarian.

The Markham Mantra Lions Club is honored to have Lion Bobby Maker in its ranks. His generosity, vision, and steadfast presence continue to inspire us all to go "above and beyond."

Sir Edmund Hillary: A Humble Lion with a Mountain-Sized Legacy

In 1965, Sir Edmund Hillary—already a global icon for his historic ascent of Mt. Everest in 1953 alongside Tenzing Norgay—quietly joined the Remuera Lions Club in Auckland, New Zealand. Introduced to the Lions movement by his family lawyer and charter member Bruce Oliphant, Hillary brought with him not only world fame, but also a deep commitment to service.





- Lion Alka Dua - Sponsor Lion Bobby Maker
- Lion Anita Suri - Sponsor Lion Bobby Maker
- Lion Darshan Badrain - Sponsor Lion Vinny Maker
- Lion Harvinder Anand - Sponsor Lion Vikram Dua
- Lion Himadar Maddipatla - Sponsor Lion Sudha Verma
- Lion Sonia Bhandari - Sponsor Lion Sudha Verma
- Lion Susie Singh - Sponsor Lion Bobby Maker
- Lion Kavleen Badrain - Sponsor Lion Vinny Maker
- Lion Rajeev Chopra - Sponsor Lion Bhupender Gosain
- Lion Rashmi Chopra - Sponsor Lion Poonam Gosain
- Lion Reshma Jiwani - sponsor Lion Surinder Rathee
- Lion Vikram Dua- Sponsor Lion Bobby Maker



Food for Thought

A Very Special Bank Account

Imagine you had a bank account that deposited \$86,400 each morning. The account carries over no balance from day to day, allows you to keep no cash balance, and every evening cancels whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every dollar each day!

We all have such a bank. Its name is Time. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever time you have failed to use wisely. It carries over no balance from day to day. It allows no overdraft so you can't borrow against yourself or use more time than you have.

Each day, the account starts fresh. Each night, it destroys an unused time. If you fail to use the day's deposits, it's your loss and you can't appeal to get it back.

There is never any borrowing time. You can't take a loan out on your time or against someone else's. The time you have is the time you have.

Time management is yours to decide how you spend the time, just as with money you decide how you spend the money. It is never the case of us not having enough time to do things, but the case of whether we want to do them and where they fall in our priorities.

Heartfelt Condolences



"It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of Lion Harry & Lion Ruby Dhingra's beloved mother. In the Lions Club, we often speak of our hands being open for service, but today our hearts are open in collective

grief. We stand in solidarity with Lion Harry & Ruby Dhingra and their family during this difficult time, offering our deepest condolences and our quiet strength. May her soul rest in eternal peace."



Fundraising Gala Night 2024



\$5000 Cheque Presentation to Lions Club International Foundation

\$20,000 Cheque Presentation to The Kidney Foundation of Canada



Lion Mark S Lyon
2nd International VP (2024)
Lions International

Driving Lionism...



Driving Lionism...



Driving Lionism...



Mantra Now

Serving with Compassion * Community * Service * Leadership

Email: markhamlions@gmail.com

Driving Lionism...



Markham Mantra Board Members

**President:**

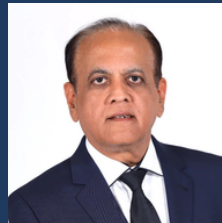
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**Treasurer:**

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**LCIF coordinator/ PDG / GST:**

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Phone: 416-318-5554

**Membership Chairperson:**

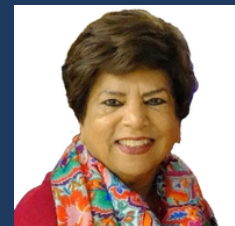
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Phone: 416-303-5300

**Club Director:**

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Member Since: 2022
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**Marketing Chairperson:**

Lion Jasmeet Singh

**Club Administrator:**

Lion Sheela Sharma
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**Tail Twister & Club Director**

Lion Bhupender Gosain
Member Since: 2010
Profession: Chartered Accountants
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Hunger



Vision



Environment



Childhood
Cancer



Diabetes



Disaster
Relief



Humanitarian
Cause



Youth