



MANTRA NOW

GALA SPECIAL EDITION

An Evening to Inspire and Serve





An Evening to Inspire and Serve: Lions Club Markham Mantra Gala 2026

On a night that perfectly embodied our Club's mission, the Lions Club of Markham Mantra gathered for our signature fundraiser gala under the theme "An Evening to Inspire and Serve." It was more than just an event, it was a testament to what our community can achieve when we come together with purpose.

Throughout the evening, we celebrated the power of collective action and generosity. Our community demonstrated its commitment to meaningful impact in two profound ways: a \$100,000 donation to York University's Markham Campus, supporting the next generation of local leaders and innovators, and a \$5,000 contribution to the Lions International Foundation, extending our service reach far beyond our borders.

The energy reached new heights during our silent auction, where the generosity of our sponsors and supporters shone brightly. Together, we raised close to \$7,000, reflecting not just the value of the items on offer, but the genuine spirit of those bidding to support our cause. Every paddle raise, every final bid, these are the moments where inspiration becomes action. This gala represents what Lions do best: we show up, we give back, and we inspire others to do the same. To our sponsors, donors, and every person who attended, thank you for embodying the heart of our Club. You've helped us turn inspiration into service, and impact into legacy. The evening may have ended, but the work continues. This is just the beginning of how we'll serve our communities in the coming year.

Lion Darshanjit Badrain
Marketing Chairperson
Markham Mantra Lions Club



PRESIDENT LION HARRY DHINGRA

The Markham Mantra Lions Club successfully hosted its Annual Fundraiser Gala on September 19, 2026, bringing together community leaders, distinguished guests, and supporters. Centred around the theme "An Evening to Inspire & Serve," the event at the Borgata Event Centre was a resounding triumph of community spirit, embodying the club's motto: "Service is our Mantra."

This year's gala dedicated its fundraising efforts to the York University Markham Campus Capital Campaign. The Markham Mantra Lions Club has pledged a \$100,000 partnership goal to help create academic opportunities, offer student scholarships, and build a lasting legacy for higher education in our community.

"It is my great honour and privilege to lead this dedicated and energetic group of individuals, all with one common goal: to inspire and serve. This gala proved what we can achieve when passion meets purpose. By coming together under our banner of service, our community has taken a monumental step toward empowering the next generation of leaders at York University's new campus."

An evening of this scale would not be possible without the incredible backing of our corporate community. The club extends its deepest gratitude to our corporate partners whose contributions drove the evening's success:

- Diamond Sponsor: Cellular Point
- Gold Sponsor: ICICI Bank of Canada
- Silver Sponsors: Sunray Group, Premier Group Realty Inc., and Gagan Law PC

The backbone of this successful gala was the tireless work of the Markham Mantra Lions Club Board of Directors and every single club member. Thank you to each individual who spent months planning, coordinating logistics, and ensuring the night ran flawlessly. Together, we are building opportunities and shaping the future of education in Markham. Warm Regards,

Lion Harry Dhingra (President)





DEPUTY PROVOST DR. DAN PALERMO

Building Community Through Service and Partnership

By Dan Palermo, Deputy Provost, Markham Campus, York University
York University's Markham Campus was created with a strong commitment to being part of the community we call home. Since opening our doors, one of the most rewarding parts of our journey has been building relationships with organizations that share our belief in education, community and creating opportunities for the next generation.

Located in the heart of York Region, Markham Campus offers a new model for higher education where classroom learning connects directly with careers and the community.

Our programs are centred on innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship, with experiential learning and connections to employers and community partners built into the student experience. Our goal is to be an engine of opportunity, not only for our students, but for the communities we serve.

Bringing that vision to life takes strong community partnerships, and we are fortunate to have found one in the Markham Mantra Lions Club. It was a pleasure to join Club members and friends at the recent fundraising gala in support of Markham Campus and our capital campaign. The generosity shown that evening was truly appreciated, but what struck me just as much was the genuine enthusiasm for doing good and doing it together. You could see the friendships throughout the room as people shared a meal, danced, laughed, and enjoyed the evening, all while coming together to support an important cause. That combination of service, friendship and community made the evening especially memorable.

I also know an evening like this takes a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, and I want to thank everyone who gave their time and energy to make it such a success.

The support raised through the gala will help advance our vision for Markham Campus and strengthen the experience we are able to offer our students. It helps create spaces and opportunities where students can learn, connect, gain practical experience, and prepare to make their own contributions to the communities around them.

The evening was made even more meaningful with the announcement of the new Mantra Lions Award. Beginning in the 2026-27 academic year, this \$2,000 annual award will recognize a student who embodies the Mantra Lions' spirit of "We Serve" through volunteerism, community leadership and a commitment to improving the well-being of others. Financial support like this can make an important difference for students, helping ease financial pressures so they can focus on their studies and take advantage of opportunities beyond the classroom. I appreciate that the Mantra Lions Award recognizes not only academic achievement, but also service, leadership and giving back. It reinforces an important message for our students: how you contribute to your community matters.





Just as importantly, the members of the Markham Mantra Lions Club are setting that example themselves. Through their volunteerism, generosity, and commitment to serving others, they are showing our students, the next generation of community leaders, what it means to use their time and talents to strengthen the communities around them.

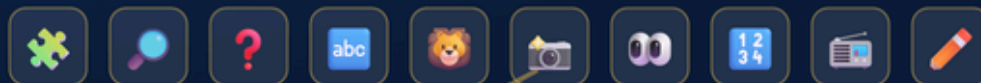
On behalf of everyone at Markham Campus, I want to thank the Markham Mantra Lions Club for its generous support of our capital campaign, for establishing the Mantra Lions Award, and for the example its members set for our students. Their impact extends well beyond financial support. They are helping inspire young people to see community service and leadership as something they, too, can carry forward. As Markham Campus continues to grow, we are grateful to have the Markham Mantra Lions Club becoming part of our Campus community. I look forward to continuing to build our relationship and finding new ways to work together as we help prepare the next generation of community leaders who will carry forward that same spirit of service.



NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

Puzzle Corner

10 free puzzles & games — new every quarter with our newsletter



lionsclubmantra.com/puzzles



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT **LION GULSHAN SETHI**

A marvelous & memorable "An Evening to Inspire & Support," a fundraising gala, hosted by the Markham Mantra Lions Club benefiting York University-Markham Campus and Lions Club International Foundation.

Having been involved with the Lions Club since 2009 in various roles, organizing and managing this year's fundraising gala as Immediate Past President was a truly exceptional experience. The enthusiasm, excitement and energy, shown by over 350 guests, the donors, the grant recipients, the club members, and board of directors, was beyond imagination.

Guests thoroughly enjoyed the quality of the food, hospitality, and exceptionally managed open bar.

We were honored to host distinguished attendees, including:

- International Director of Lions International, Lion Debbie Dawson
- Past International Director, Lion Tom Gordon
- Mayor of Richmond Hill, Mr. David West
- Deputy Provost of York University, Dr. Dan Palermo, and his staff
- Notable donors including Lion Bobby Maker (CEO of Cellular point), Lion Himadar Maddipataa (CEO of ICICI Bank Canada) Dr. Ray Gupta (Sunray Group), Mr. Manjit Banwait and Lion Harry Dhingra of Premier Group Realty and Ms. Gagan Dadiala of Gagan Law

The evening began promptly at 6:00 PM, and thanks to the fantastic entertainment and DJ, attendees enjoyed dancing so much that the music continued well past our scheduled 12:30 AM end time.

Overall, it was a memorable and successful evening participated & enjoyed by all. Thanks to each and everyone, for your contribution, making this event such a triumph.





LION BOBBY MAKER

The Markham Mantra Lions Gala was a wonderful and successful event that reflected the dedication, teamwork, and commitment of everyone involved. From the planning and organization to the execution of the evening, the Gala demonstrated what can be achieved when members come together with a shared purpose and a strong commitment to serving the community. What makes the Markham Mantra Lions Club special to me is that our work goes far beyond organizing events. The Lions organization is built on a simple but powerful principle: service to the community.

Our motto, "Service Is Our Mantra," represents who we are and what we strive to accomplish every day.

Throughout the year, Lions members dedicate their time and energy to many meaningful initiatives. These include tree planting and environmental projects, collecting eyeglasses for people in need, clothing collections, food drives, supporting homeless and vulnerable children, and many other community programs and charitable activities. Each initiative, whether large or small, has the potential to make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Our Gala was not only an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments, but also a reminder of why we come together as Lions. The success of the evening showed the strength of our membership, the generosity of our supporters, and our shared commitment to making a positive impact.

I am truly proud to be part of the Markham Mantra Lions Club. Being a Lion gives me the opportunity to contribute, volunteer, meet wonderful people, and be part of something that is bigger than any one individual. It is rewarding to know that our efforts can bring hope, support, and positive change to people in our community.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the many opportunities before us and look forward to participating in many more successful events and service projects. Together, we can continue to strengthen our community, support those who need us, and make a lasting difference.





LION HIMADAR MADDIPATLA

It was a pleasure to be part of the Markham Mantra Lions Club Gala on September 19. As a member of the Club, it was great to see so many familiar faces, meet new people and to spend an evening with friends and members of our community.

I have always felt that businesses should stay connected with the communities they serve and support good work whenever they can.

The atmosphere in the room was very warm and welcoming full of like minded individuals. I had some great conversations throughout the evening and really enjoyed seeing everyone come together.

A lot of work goes into organizing an event like this, and it showed. My congratulations to the Club leadership, organizing team, volunteers and fellow members who worked hard to make the evening happen.

The planning was immaculate with every possible attention given to details to improve the guest experience. It's heartening to see the volunteer work going into philanthropic causes.

It was a wonderful evening, and I was happy and proud to be a part of it.



Scan to play Puzzle Corner

Point your phone's camera at the square below, then tap the link



lionsclubmantra.com/puzzles

1
Open your phone
camera

2
Point it at the code

3
Tap the link that appears

The Quarterly Puzzle Challenge — you could win!

Every quarter, one puzzle hides the Challenge answer. This quarter, solve the Word Scramble: the circled letters spell a famous Lions motto. What is it?

- Enter online at lionsclubmantra.com/puzzles/challenge, or
- Write your name, phone number and answer on the puzzle page and hand it in at our monthly meeting on October 7 or November 4.
- Entries close on November 30, 2026.

A winner will be drawn from all correct entries, and the prize will be presented at our December monthly meeting. With your permission, we will announce the winner in our next newsletter and on our website.

Mantra Now

Service is our Mantra

Email: info@lionsclubmantra.com



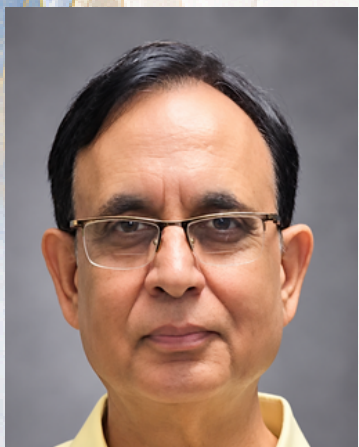
meet our New members



Lion Rajan Sharma

My name is Rajan Sharma. I am a Chartered Professional Accountant and have served the people of Ontario for over 35 years through the Ontario Public Service, currently working as a Senior Tax Auditor with the Ontario Ministry of Finance. Additionally, I am the founder of Bollywood Ki Dhun, an organization dedicated to promoting art and culture through music and dance.

Having originally been a member of the Lions Club, I deeply appreciate the wonderful platform the Lions Club provides for community service. I would love the opportunity to contribute my skills and background to Markham Mantra Lions Club's upcoming initiatives and projects.



Lion Sanjeev Sehgal

My name is Sanjeev Sehgal, and I am writing to express my strong interest in volunteering with the Lions Club.

Having recently retired from a career as a CPA specializing in corporate taxation, I am now eager to give back to the community and support through Markham Mantra Lions Club's impactful initiatives.

I concluded that the Lions Club provides a wonderful platform for community service, and I would love the opportunity to contribute my skills and experience by joining the Markham Mantra Lions Club.



Lion Sonny Dhillon

My name is Sonny Dhillon, and I previously served as the Director of Technology at the Lung Health Foundation. On a personal level, I have recently gotten involved with the Markham Mantra Lions Club, having been deeply impressed by their genuine passion for supporting our local community and creating a meaningful impact.

A core part of my personal mission is to support homeless youth in our community. I am eager to dedicate my time and effort to these noble community causes and would welcome the opportunity to explore how we can collaborate to make a difference.



SERVICE IN ACTION



Markham Mantra Lions club member presenting cheque of \$100,000 to Dr. Dan Palermo Deputy Provost York University



Markham Mantra Lions club member presenting cheque of \$5,000 to Past International Director Lion Tom Gordon



VOICES THAT INSPIRE IDEAS THAT IMPACT



**Dr. Dan Palermo Deputy Provost York University
being recognized by President Lion Harry Dhingra**



**District A16 Governor Lion Paul Larocque addressing the gathering with
words of wisdom, appreciation and fostering Lionism**



Lion Recognition



Lion Vinny Maker being presented Melvin Jones award

The Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) is the highest form of recognition from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) honoring exemplary humanitarian service.



President Lion Harry Dhingra & Lion Bhupender Gosain presenting Service award to Lion Gulshan Sethi



President Lion Harry Dhingra presenting Marketing award to Lion Darshan Badrain

Thank You



**Diamond Sponsor
Cellular Point**



**Gold Sponsor
ICICI Bank Scotiabank**

Thank You



**Silver Sponsor
Sunray Group**



**Silver Sponsor
Premier Realty Group**



**Silver Sponsor
Gagan Law**

Proud Supporters



Proud Supporters







Happy Birthday!



Wishing all our Lions a wonderful year filled with joy, good health, success, and continued happiness.

Thank you for all you do!



Birthday Greetings to Our Lions



Lion Dinesh Virmani

11/21



Lion Ripudaman Lamba

12/04



Lion Punita Virmani

12/09



Lion Vikram Dua

12/08



Lion Alka Dua

12/12



Lion Bharat Shah

12/16

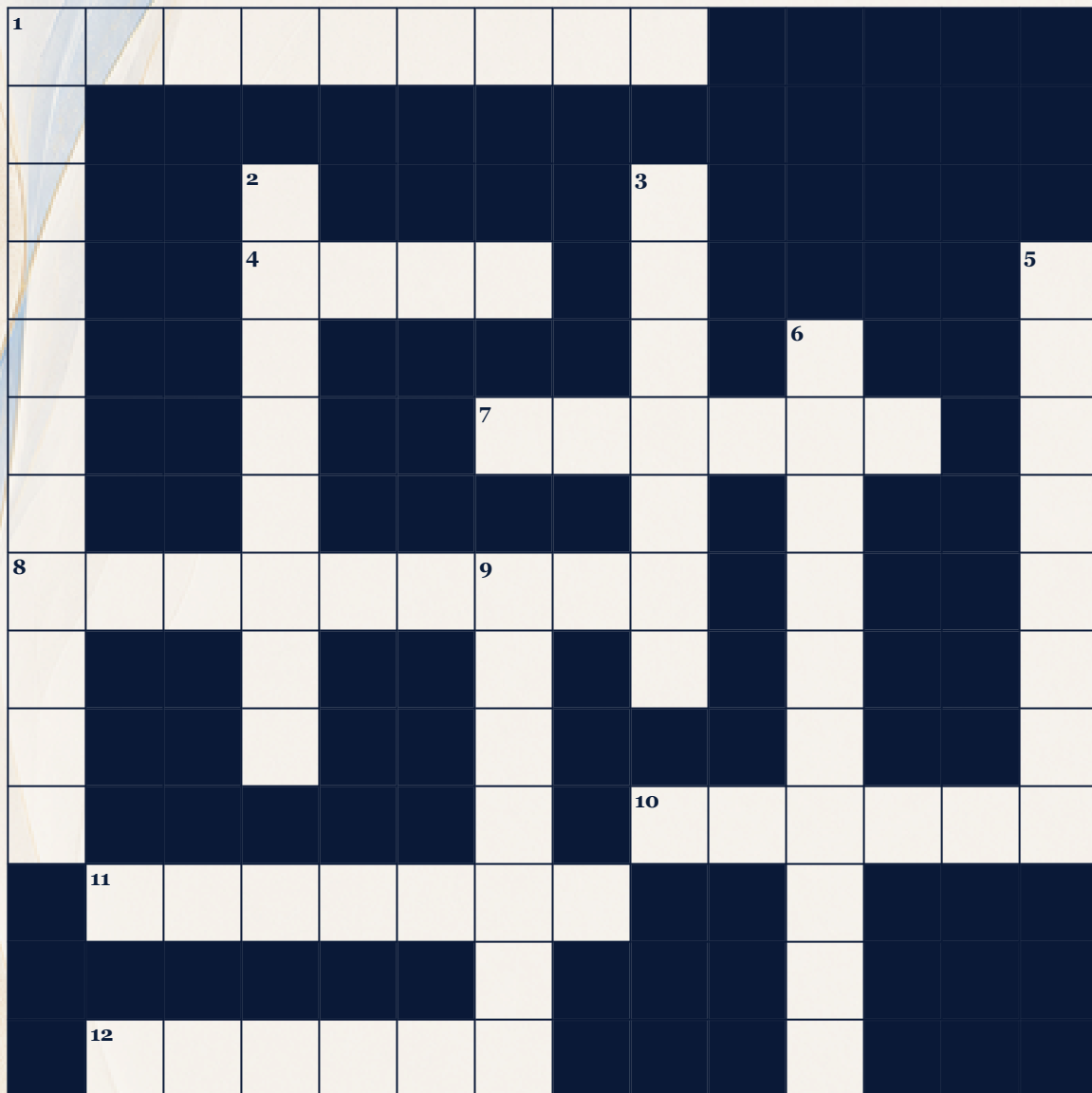
Your dedication, kindness,
and leadership make our club
stronger and our community better.

Happy Birthday & Best Wishes!

Together, we serve. Together, we inspire.

Autumn 2026 Crossword

MarkhamMantraLionsClub · Every answer can be found on our website



Solve it online at lionsclubmantra.com/crossword

Across

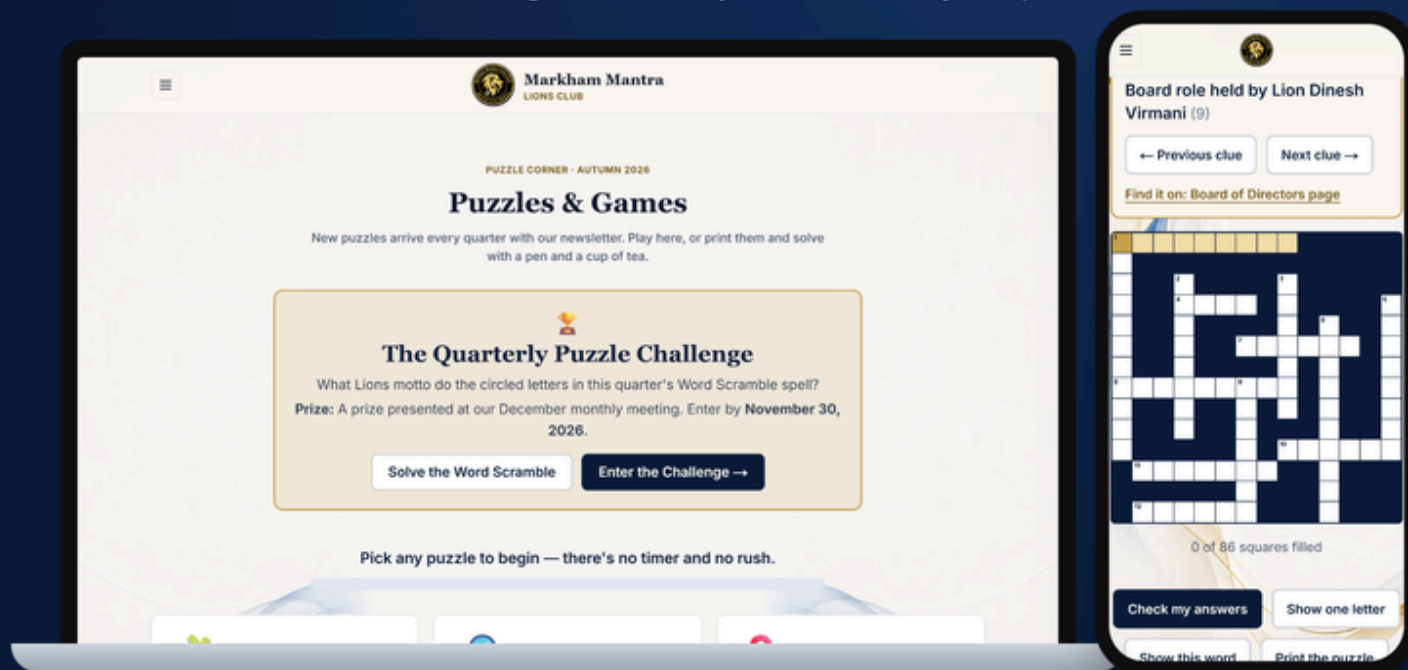
1. Board role held by Lion Dinesh Virmani (9)
4. Markham ____: the August car race four of our Lions attended (4)
7. Lions global cause working for food security (6)
8. Month of our 2026 Inspire & Serve Gala (9)
10. Lions global cause that fights blindness (6)
11. The Ontario city our club calls home (7)
12. Complete our club motto: "Service is our ____" (6)

Down

1. Fun board role that keeps meetings lively, held by Lion Bhupender Gosain (4, 7)
2. Lions global cause that helps people live healthier with this condition (8)
3. Surname of Lion Harry, our Club President for 2026–2028 (7)
5. ____ Mills Community Centre, where our monthly meetings are held (8)
6. One of our club values: lasting friendships across generations (10)
9. ____ Event Center, where our 2026 Gala took place (7)

Big buttons. Large letters. No rush.

Designed to be easy to read and easy to tap



Find Puzzle Corner in the menu at lionsclubmantra.com

Ten ways to play

Play on your computer, tablet or phone — or print them and use a pen



Crossword

Every answer is on our website



Word Search

Find 12 hidden Lions words



Lions Trivia

How well do you know our club?



Word Scramble

Unscramble to find the Challenge answer



Guess the Lion

Read the clues — who is it?



Where Were We?

Close-up photos from our events



Spot the Difference

Five sneaky changes to find



Sudoku

Easy and Medium levels



Memory Lane

A nostalgic quiz — do you remember?



Fill in the Blanks

Complete sentences about our club



No timers



Progress saved



Large print



Printable

Mantra Now

Service is our Mantra

Email: info@lionsclubmantra.com

Lucky Winner will win Freshco or Food
Basics \$100 Gift card

WINNER
GETS!



Scan to play Puzzle Corner

Point your phone's camera at the square below, then tap the link



lionsclubmantra.com/puzzles

1
Open your phone
camera

2
Point it at the code

3
Tap the link that appears