RCMC Meeting

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Ron East – Secretary

Meeting started 9:54 AM, 55 members present

Presided over by Warren Gregg – President

Moment of remembrance

Ken Marchant – Chair Activities Committee

- **Races – September 12th**
- **Ham Radio Museum**
- **Remembrance Day November 11th**
- **Christmas Lunch – December 11th**
- **Car Rally**

Martin Alderwick – Chair Membership Committee

3 guests present

Total membership – 84

Kerry Gennings – Chair Speakers Committee

Introduced Speaker: Greg Kennedy

Topic: "Dancing on the Edge: How to KeepUpright When the World Falls Down"

Bio: Greg Kennedy holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of Ottawa and a Masters of Theology from the Javeriana University in Bogota, Colombia. For the past eight years, he has worked at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre in multiple capacities as a retreat director, instructor, spiritual director, Executive Director, and sometime farmhand. He is the author of *An Ontology of Trash: the disposable and its problematic nature* (SUNY Press), and three volumes of *Reupholstered Psalms* (Novalis Press). His preferred mode of transportation is walking, for all kinds of superlative reasons.

Presentation: Leonard Cohen perhaps sang it best: "I've seen the future, brother, it is murder". In many ways (ecological, social, geopolitical) it feels like this future is right on top of us these days. And yet live each single day we must. My lifelong concern has been how to do so responsibly, joyfully, creatively, consciously. Drawing on my studies of philosophy and my profession of spiritual direction, I would like to talk about our individual and collective roles of living in an age of apparent ecological and civil collapse

without interior falling apart. The edge we are dancing on is thin, but this just heightens our chances of moving gracefully.

Mr Kennedy talked about food security, lost jobs (including his own), and his background. He referred to the period during covid, and working in the fields at the Ignatius Centre. His vocation can be described as a calling. He quoted Robert Frost (American Poet 1874 – 1963) and his poem "Two Tramps in Mud Time" He then asked for some audience participation to dramatize it. He talked about vocation and avocation – work and play. He quoted from Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) from Thomas Aquinas's 4 Causes. He stated that by next year we will have lost 200 million homes to climate change. The average temperature has surpassed 1.5 degrees and is now approaching 2 degrees. Three degrees is considered the point of human extinction. He quoted Thomas (Tom) Barry who was an Irish nationalist (1897 – 1980). He described the "great work before us…" He talked about physical and spiritual evolution and the need to help the universe love itself. He referred to Joanna Macy (1929 – 2025) an American environmentalist and her connection to Buddhism. He referred to the bodhisattva; bodhisattva refers to someone who has made a resolution to become a Buddha and has also received a confirmation or prediction from a living Buddha that this will come to pass. He referred to the tapestry of life and spiritual globalization "the truth will set me free". The point is to unite vocation and avocation. He then took questions.

The meeting ended at 11:05AM

Ron East - secretary