Royal City Men's Club

General Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 5th, 2026

Meeting came to order 9:55 AM, Warren Gregg, President presiding.

Need to increase budget for House Committee. Fees will increase to $100.00 annually.

Number of members present: 66

Activities Committee – Ken Marchant, Chair

Valentine's Day dinner, Guelph Storm tickets, Sleemans Brewery tour, possible car rally

Membership Committee - Martin Alderwick, Chair

Guests: ?

Speaker – Elmer Warkentin (new member)

Bio: Elmer Warkentin is a native of Manitoba. He grew up on a mixed farm and learned to work hard. He got his teaching certification at Manitoba Teachers College and spent 7 years teaching in Manitoba and northern Alberta. In 1974 Elmer and his wife, Elvira (also a teacher) moved to Nigeria with their two small children to teach in a Nigerian Government High School. After 5 years Elmer got a teaching position at an Advanced Teachers College where he trained Nigerian high school teachers.. One daughter was born to them in Nigeria.

In 1987 the Warkentins moved back to Canada for their children's post-secondary education. During these 16 years back in Canada the Warkentins worked on home staff of their non profit organization, SIM. During this time Elmer led a short term team of EFL teachers to China and got excited about the opportunities for teaching English in China. He was asked to go and set up a regional office for SIM in Asia. So, in 2003 the Warkentins moved to Chiang Mai, Thailand and spent the next 5 year setting up an office and overseeing the work of SIM in China, Mongolia, Phillipines, Nepal, and Thailand. Elmer calls these five years in Asia the "icing on the cake" of his career.

Since their return to Canada in 2008 Elmer has been back in Asia to teach ESL, first in China and then in Vietnam. He has also been involved in recruiting volunteers for work in various countries of the world. In his retirement he has been teaching ESL to Internationals here in Guelph. Elmer loves biking, motorcycling, kayaking , camping and hiking. His seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren keep him busy and happy. His motto is: It's About Life.

Introduction: Jay Gold

Notes:

Need to pass on stories of our life experience – write them down.

Religious knowledge – mission to Nigeria – went August, 1974

Amazing learning experience – learned Hausa languages – learn about their culture

There are 450 languages in Nigeria

Taught secondary school – temperature over 100 degrees, international staff

Teaching bible studies – predominantly Muslim. Lots of singing

Local riots – school burned

Travelling to villages – many students impacted by teaching

Challenges – water, electricity

At University – teaching prospective teachers

Theme: Our lives matter.

Returned to Canada – worked for SIM (Serving in Mission)

Set up ESL (English as Second Language) programs in China

Went to Thailand to set up ESL programs in South-East Asia.

Meeting concluded at 11:00 AM