Royal City Men's Club
Meeting Minutes
General Meeting Thursday, March 19, 2026

President, Warren Gregg absent, Meeting presided over by Richard Rivkin, Vice-President

Meeting convened at 9:55 AM

Members present: 65

Ken Marchant, Chair Activities Committee

Apologies for the Valentine's dinner fiasco

Sleeman's tour

Axe Throwing

Theatre tickets

Martin Alderwick, Chair Membership Committee

Guests: Sean Michaels, Wayne ?

Dues to be paid by April 1, 2026

Intro: Ken Marchant

Speaker: Ezio Di Emanuele

Bio:
Ezio is a former Executive, Diplomat, Senior Trade Commissioner, and Regional Director with 31 years of federal government public service. His public sector background includes international trade-related assignments with the Departments of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Global Affairs Canada, including postings to the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo and the Canadian High Commission in London, England. While in London, he was elected Chairman of the 30-member country International Grains Council, an organization that promotes international cooperation, market transparency, and stability in the global grains trade.

After retiring from the federal public service, he joined MNP LLP's Food & Beverage team for 13 years as a Senior Business Advisor working from the firm's Toronto, Waterloo, and Cambridge offices. He and the team grew this new niche practice to $40 million in revenue by delivering accounting, tax, and business advisory services to food and beverage industry clients from coast to coast.
Ezio earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Political Science from Lake Superior State University while there on a NCAA hockey scholarship and completed his studies for a Masters in Public Policy (M.P.P.) from the State University of New York at Buffalo.
He is a past Board member of the Ontario Agricultural Adaptation Council, Soy 20/20, Bioenterprise, the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario, the George Morris Value Chain Management Centre, and the Agri-Food Innovation & Regulation Chair's Advisory Board at the Ivey School of Business.

Ezio has Italian background is the proud son of Italian immigrant parents from the Niagara Falls area. His Grandfather was one of the first a Italian bakers in Niagara Falls.

At 5 years old he started skating and learning to play hockey – played at the junior and NCAA-1 levels. No hockey career, so focused on academics.

Hired to study pollution in Niagara River by Liberal MPP Vince Kerrio, Niagara Falls. Worked as a Parliamentary assistant to John Al MacBain, Liberal MP, Niagara Falls

Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture hired Ezio to focus on domestic issue management as well as international relations. Wineries. Promoted Canadian wines – office functions internationally

First international relations experience was a mission led by Minister Whelan in 1981 to famine struck Ethiopia. Was at the Vatican, helping during the war in Ethiopia. Met Pope John Paul II at the Vatican with the Minister to provide debriefing to the Pope on findings in Ethiopia.

Member of Canadian delegation that hosted Mikhail Gorbachev in 1983. – Russia when he was Minister of Agriculture, Energey in Soviet Government – Perestroika, Glasnost

In 1984 joined Agriculture Canada's International Trade Division's China Desk. worked with PM Brian Mulroney

In 1988, joined Global Affairs Canada's Japan Trade Development Division.

China desk – trade

Left before Tiananmen Square massacre

Japan 1990-Posted to the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo in 1994. – opening of new Canadian Embassy – designed by Moriyama (architect). PM Mulroney visited Tokyo in 1991 to open the new Canadian Embassy designed by Canadian architect Raymond Moriyama.

1994- He was posted to the Canadian High Commission in London U.K. (Agriculture)

Fairmont Hotels from across Canada catered event One major highlight was the re-opening of Canada House in London. Attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Came back to Guelph as the Regional Director of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Ontario Regional Office. Upon retiring from the federal government he went then on to work for MNP LLP until retirement. – private sector, until retirement.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00AM

Ron East

Recording Secretary