1Royal City Men's Club
General Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026

Meeting started at 10:50AM, Warren Gregg, President presiding

Number of members present 63

Moment of silence for those unable to bne with us today.

Ken Marchant, Chair, Activities Committee

- Tour de Guelph
- AGM Thursday, June 11th
- Important if members sign up and that they show up at activities – perhaps pay in advance

Martin Alderwick, Chair, Membership Committee

Guest Paul Macpherson
New members
Fred Grise
Adam Thomson
Asa Lebel

Total of 105 Members currently

Dr. Eric Nost - Speaker
Presentation:
Political Ecology & Environmental Governance
I research how data technologies inform environmental governance. New kinds of data-generating sensors and data-synthesizing algorithms are becoming central to everyday life and may prove transformational in policy too. A key challenge for geographers in the coming years is assessing these technologies' promise to help society solve sustainability issues related to food security, climate change adaptation, and ecosystem services conservation. This will be done by understanding their human dimensions - their design, use, maintenance, and effects on society - alongside other governance trends such as marketization and metrification. It will involve understanding how these data systems came but also experimenting with them towards more just and equitable ends.

Bio:
2018 Ph.D. Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Dissertation: Programming Adaptation: How Modeling Informs Environmental Policy in Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan
Minor: Environmental Studies (Culture, History, and Environment)
2013 M.A. Geography, University of Kentucky, 2013

2Royal City Men's Club
General Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026

Thesis: Counting on the Environment: Measuring and Marketing Ecosystem Services in Oregon

2009 B.A. Geography with Honors, Grinnell College, 2009

Thesis: Tourism, Development, and Place in the Caribe Sur of Costa Rica

2008 Costa Rica Independent Field Study, Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM), 2008

Introduced by Richard Rivkin

Background:

U.S. data on the environment has been deleted from use by foreign researchers

A problem for accessing technology and for environmental justice

Studying environmental change in Canada and conservation increasingly difficult

Use of A.I. help

E.D.G.I. – Environmental Data and Screening Initiative – group with tools to study environment

U.S. has been useful to Canada in the past

Now – Climate data subject to – deregulation, defunding, and deletion in the States

Access denied

2nd Trump administration data subject to deletion and removal

Defunding – cutting staff – Environmental Protection Administration (E.P.A.)

Data sets stopped – civil society groups trying to maintain data where possible

Some data collection is still mandated by law

Questions:

Weaponizing data,

No longer having an accurate picture

Canada must set up alternatives

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Ron East - Secretary