

## Thank you Volunteers!

A huge thank you to all our volunteers at Crieff Hills for their support of programs, gardens, trails, environmental projects and helping make our buildings beautiful.

Guests consistently rate our facilities highly and we couldn't do it without your support!

## Thank you Donors!

Financial donations to Crieff Hills Retreat and Conference Centre are most appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Crieff Hills.

Crieff Hills Community was created through a gift in 1950. Since that time, its ministry has been sustained through many more gifts.

The day to day expenses for Crieff Hills Retreat and Conference Centre are funded by monies received from hosting groups in their retreats and conferences as well as through program fees. Capital projects are funded through donations.

Donations are welcomed for the Accessibility Fund and the General and Septic Systems Upgrade Fund.

Crieff Hills Community is a registered charitable organization. All donations are eligible for a tax deductible receipt.

Donations may be made online through our website, by cheque or through calling the office. Thank you for your support!

## Guest Comments:

"Crieff Hills is a beautiful and restful space."

" Exceeded my expectations."

"Wonderful place. Thankful for the time to 'be.' "

"Thank you for this day! I could not ask for anything better!"

"Nice setting in nature with trails and labyrinth."

"Spectacular quilts on walls."

" A great team day for us – thanks for providing the space for that to happen!"

## Upcoming Events 2018

**Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> - Fall Bird Banding** at the Picnic Shelter and Morning Hikes

**Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> - Manna Day with Rev. Dr. Clyde Ervine** "Good News At Your Fingertips: Come and rediscover both personal and congregational confidence in God's Good News." Please register at least a week in advance for this event!

**November 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> - Women's Weekend Retreat with Rev. Dr. Karen Horst.** Women of all ages are invited to prepare for Advent at this retreat with the theme of "Freedom from...Freedom for..." Come and join us!

**Christmas Luncheon Buffets** with hot buffet and delicious dessert buffet offered week days in mid-December. Reservations are required. A wonderful opportunity to celebrate together with friends, family and co-workers!

**Ontario Jubilee Program** is now accepting applications for Phase 1, a year long program developing skills in listening, discernment and spiritual practice to begin in Spring 2019 at Crieff Hills. [www.ontariojubilee.ca](http://www.ontariojubilee.ca)



## Crieff Hills Retreat & Conference Centre

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# Crieff Hills News

## Thank You and Happy Retirement

In May, Crieff Hills staff, volunteers, friends and family gathered to thank Lawrence and Marylu Pentelow for their outstanding dedication to Crieff Hills Community over the past 15 years and wish them the very best for their retirement. Lawrence was managing director and Marylu coordinated Crieff Hills programs. They will be deeply missed by so many for their leadership at Crieff Hills and wonderful hospitality!

As convenor of the Maclean Estate Committee, David Phillips spoke on behalf of the whole committee to say "Thank you, many times over for your leadership here. It is said that: a leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way...Lawrence is Caring, Responsive, Inviting, shows Equality, has Fun and is Faithful. Taking the first letter of each of those words spells "CRIEFF" and those traits and many more show themselves here because of Lawrence Pentelow."

## A Big Heart

All of us at Crieff have experienced what a big heart Lawrence has. In the good times, Lawrence was there to laugh alongside you. When there was tree down on the hydro line, Lawrence was there chainsaw in hand. When installing over a kilometer of new water lines Lawrence had a shovel by his side. He has been there during the times when you have shared the most exciting news and when things were frightening and uncertain... Lawrence was there to console, to listen and to guide....He let all of us use our talents to best suit the ministry of Crieff, never letting our imaginations be extinguished.

*David Krueger, Crieff staff*



## Thanks From Puslinch Community Churches

When Lawrence arrived in the Puslinch community, Crieff Hills became our gathering place. We were always welcomed with a cup of coffee or tea and some wonderful sweet from the kitchen. Lawrence would have a devotional ready for us. Marylu was there taking notes and keeping us organized. We did many creative events here at Crieff Hills: Living Bethlehem and Holy Saturday in the amphitheater where we also held a joint community churches worship service. I also remember the time Marty Molengraaf climbed the tree outside of the Prophet to play the role of Zaccheus! Lawrence was open to all of these suggestions and making sure everything was going as we planned. Crieff Hills was always part of our community services for Remembrance Day and Good Friday.

I am grateful for the wonderful experiences that Lawrence, Marylu and Crieff Hills brought to our community. Thank you. *Rev. Deborah Deveau*

Rev. Bob Geddes, past convenor of Maclean Estate Committee, expressed his gratitude to Lawrence and Marylu Pentelow in a letter that shared his appreciation for the opportunity "to be part of a very exciting, inspiring and successful ministry" at Crieff Hills. Bob shared two personal highlights over recent years including "the Pines Project (from inception, fund raising, completion and its popular use) and the now annual birding day, with its focus on Crieff's natural heritage. These and other highlights were all due to Lawrence's management skills, and Marylu's program expertise. I watched in awe as their love for Crieff became so evident in their effective team building focus with the staff and volunteers, their friendly yet professional style, and their sacrificial efforts to make Crieff Hills the powerful witness to our faith. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is indebted."



## Telling Our Story...Crieff History Booklet Series

"Telling Our Story" is a series of 14 booklets about the Crieff Hills property and buildings that is full of fascinating stories and pictures. Many visitors to Crieff want to know more about this special "place apart" where they find peace and renewal. Guests often ask about Colonel Maclean, the history of the schoolhouse, the log house and other buildings.

Newest booklets in the "Telling Our Story" series include:

**"Sacred Spaces & Walking Places"** - the cross, amphitheatre, building of the prayer shelter and the labyrinth

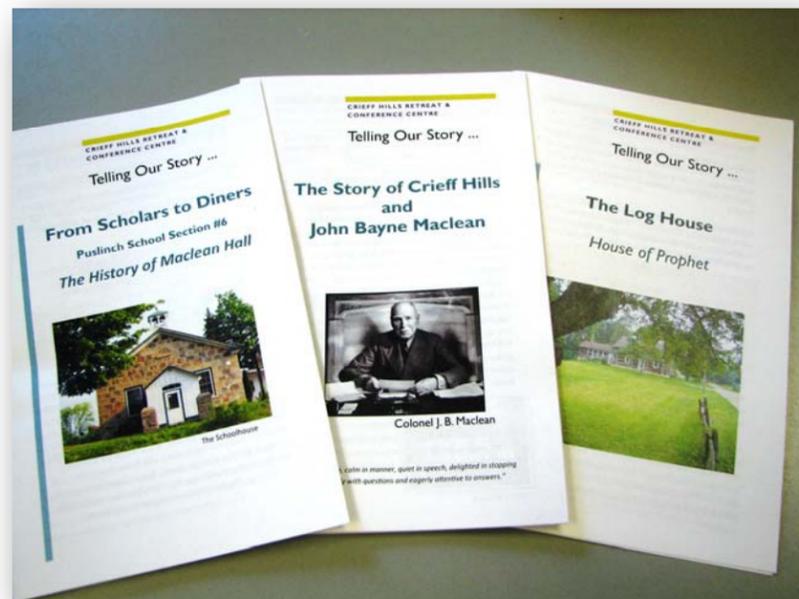
**"Most Recent Buildings"** - Ruth, Robert Yeats, The Straw House and The Pines Suites

**"Our Shared History"** - Crieff Village: Frame House, Gartland House and Knox Presbyterian Church, Crieff

**"Camping Days and Picnic Shelters"** - includes memories of building a "home in the woods" and cooking lunches on an open fire at the Guelph Churches Day Camp (which began in 1968 and ran until 2009), as well as CGIT camps, Crieff Presbyterian Family Camp and Church picnics. Crieff Hills remains a popular location for church picnics and youth gatherings.

You will find the complete series of Crieff history booklets in the Common Room of the Pines. There is a binder in the Pines containing all the booklets in the series and the front foyer of Maclean Hall displays several booklets. You may also request copies of booklets from the office.

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who shared information, stories and photos with Crieff Hills. Thank you to Marylu Pentelow for compiling this rich collection. What a wealth of stories to be treasured and shared!



## Register Now!

### Women's Fall Retreat With Rev. Dr. Karen Horst November 9-11, 2018

#### "Freedom From...Freedom For"

**Freedom from anxiety...**

**Freedom for hope**

**Freedom from perfection...**

**Freedom for peace**

**Freedom from discouragement...**

**Freedom for joy**

**Freedom from judgement...**

**Freedom for love**



#### Thank You

Every November, under the skillful leadership of Marylu Pentelow, Crieff Hills hosted 'A Woman's Retreat' - including a keynote speaker, guided spiritual walks, food, fun and fellowship, and much, much more. In fact, this weekend event became so popular that there was a waiting list most years. A much loved opportunity to come together as Christian women to grow and to share the beliefs that we all hold most dear. Without a doubt, Marylu was at the helm of the Women's Retreats continued success- year after year. Personally, as part of the design team for many years it was both my pleasure and privilege to watch Marylu as she put her skills and talents into every single aspect of the gathering-making each year's retreat fresh and new. This is just one of the ways that 'God was so good' in bringing Marylu to Crieff. She will be sorely missed!

*Rev. Cathy Kay*

## Thank You to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Crieff Hills is grateful to have been awarded a 2018 TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) grant for installing a rain barrel by the conference hall along with a pollinator garden and outdoor meeting area near the conference centre. An area along the path to Maclean Hall was cleared of invasive buckthorn plants last fall and will now become an outdoor meeting area for guests using the conference hall.

Last year, Crieff was awarded a TD FEF grant for the Maclean Hall Pollinator Garden at the entrance to Maclean Hall. Special thanks to our dedicated volunteer gardeners for all their hard work. Volunteer gardener Margaret Gadsby commented that "this location will be an asset to educating our guests on the importance of insects and the breadth of plant options for one's garden." Betty Jane Rose, another volunteer gardener at Crieff, hopes "this garden will encourage others to incorporate pollinator plants into their own plantings....all ages may take up the challenge of planting a blend of plants in any available space."



**I am a traveller  
on a sacred journey  
through this  
one shining day.**

*Richard Wagamese*

## A Guest Reflection on a Retreat at the Pines Suites

There are times when one needs to get away from the busy lives we lead. My friend and I occasionally need solitude, space to think and time to know a sense of peace amid the beauties of nature. When we do, we spend a few days at Crieff Hills Community in The Pines. Everything we need is there for us and we come ready to lay aside our burdens for a time. The setting amid the trees, grasses, flowers and the birds and animals of the forest, speak to the inner needs of our being and we share our thoughts, hopes and stresses with each other. We return to the strains of our daily lives renewed and refreshed. This Centre is truly a spiritual place where we can find the Holy One in the whisper of the trees and the silence of the night and in the companionship of a dear friend.

*Betty Turcott*



Pines Common Room Patio