

Togo Storybook trail officially opened on September 18, 2021

Do you know the story of Togo?

Thanks to the help of local author of “The True Tales of Togo the Sled Dog”, Jonathan Hayes; Cyndi Robbins, the owner of Poland Spring Resort, and our staff here at the Poland Parks & Recreation Department, a plan was put in place to construct a permanent storybook trail. The storybook trail would act as a stepping-stone in educating the public on the story of Togo, who retired here in Poland Spring after saving the children of Nome Alaska in 1925.

In collaboration with Jonathan, illustrator Kayla Higgins, Cyndi Robbins of Poland Spring Resort, the Poland Spring Preservation Society and Poland Spring® Bottling, we got to work to bring this plan to life!

Storybook Trail Contributors:

Vanessa Harlow: *Sign Layout & Production* - Owner of Fourwinds Custom Signs & Recreation Coordinator with Poland Parks & Recreation Department

Josh Harlow Construction: *Sign Post Construction and Installation*

Glenn Bolduc: *Donation of stone & drainage work* - Owner of Spruce Bay Farm and Landscaping, Inc.

Trail Location:

When driving into the Poland Spring Resort property, follow the road straight ahead. Continue down the hill, with parking to your right. Follow signs to storybook trail.

The storybook begins to the left of the Poland Spring® Bottling Museum, slightly uphill along the Maple trail. Trail ends at the Maine State Building. Inside the Maine State Museum, photos of Togo are displayed.

Maine State Museum hours: Thursday-Saturday 9:00AM-4:00PM, Sunday 9:00AM-Noon, through October 10th

As part of the broader plan, the Togo committee is working on commissioning a statue that will be installed at the Maine State building. See more info below!

The history of Togo, and to learn how you can donate to the Togo fund, visit: <https://polandspringps.org/2020/01/27/togo/>



Togo & Leonhard Seppala



Josh Harlow preparing installation of one of the 14 panels



Story Panel



In February of 2020, starting at Fort Kent, Maine, a purebred team of Seppala Siberian Sled dogs departed from the “Americas First Mile Monument” for a solo week-long Expedition of over 200 miles through the north woods of Maine. The route

was due west to the town of Allagash, and then South, through the North Maine Wilderness, finishing some 5-6 days later and the southern end of Moosehead Lake in Greenville, Maine. This solo expedition was a collaborative effort between the Poland Spring Preservation Society and Seppala dog team musher Jonathan Nathaniel Hayes, to raise funds for a proposed monument of the famed sled dog Togo at the Maine State Building at Poland Spring.

“Few people who have seen the recent Disney movie realize that Togo and musher Leonhard Seppala settled here in Maine after their epic mush to save the children of Nome Alaska from an outbreak of diphtheria in 1925. Togo spent his last days here at our resort.” said Cyndi Robbins, owner of Poland Spring Resort. “Erecting this monument will help Mainers connect to this part of our history.”

Hope in Dark Times

During our present pandemic, we feel there is no better time to deliver this harrowing story of hope. Due to the current outbreak, all long-distance dogsled races have been canceled in the northeast.

“Togo was an exceptional dog and Leonhard Seppala was an exceptional musher.” said Jonathan Hayes, musher at Poland Spring Kennels. “I’m excited to think that my dogsled expedition with the descendants of Seppala’s team will help to create a

permanent reminder to our state residents of our connection to this inspiring moment in American history.”

For More Information

To learn more about Togo, Leonhard Seppala, and his team, check out www.mushmaine.com and <https://life-with-a-husky.com/2017/12/17/togo-the-true-hero/>

To donate to the erection of the Togo monument at the State House in Poland Spring, Maine, click on this link: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/donate-widget/28496>

