

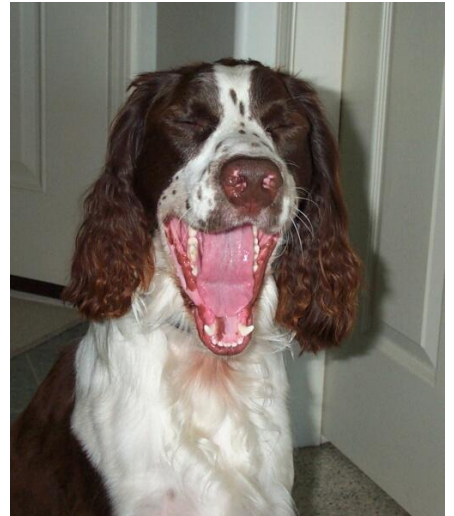
Why is it called Monty's Way

Quite simply it is a nice way of honouring Bob D'Arcy who has been among those at the forefront of the Hidden Grove project for over 12 years. Monty was his Springer spaniel and his buddy—not just at home but throughout the Hidden Grove history.

FIRST ABOUT MONTY

Early on in the Sechelt Heritage days when Monty was but a pup he saw how his master cleared sticks and branches from the trails while they walked through and soon Monty on his own was doing the job for Bob. No orders or training. Monty did not just pickup a stick and carry it. He picked it up and took it well off the trail. A large branch he dragged one end or the other until it was clear. He often tackled branches and whole trees much too large for him or even Bob but it was fun to watch.

In photographing the trails for the Virtual Tours for the website it was pointed out that the inclusion of Monty in some of the pictures helped lend perspective to the scenes. All the tours online up to May 13, 2012 include some shots of Monty. On May 13th Bob and Monty went into the Grove to photograph the Take It Easy accessibility trail that had opened just the day before. Pictures for a tour were taken right to the end and then Monty suffered a breathing attack and was dead less than an hour later. He was 13 years old and lived a wonderful happy life but more important he brought joy to all who met him. He was the dog of upper Sandy Hook and had his way of coming up to you, sitting down beside you and lifting his head for a pat. No jumping up—just a nice friendly tail wag.



After Monty Was Gone

The word went out and soon an email was sent to the members of the Sechelt Groves Society reading (A bit of editing has been done to the emails for brevity and clarity but nothing that changes the essence):



Dear fellow members:

Most of you will know that recently, Bob's companion pooch Monty passed away. Without Bob we wouldn't have our cherished 'walk in the woods'; but as is said of many great men there is a great dog behind each one. Monty was that dog. Hard though this may be for Bob to hear, it was Monty who took matters in hand. It was Monty who tugged at Bob's sleeve every morning reminding him of his duties and to get up and do them. It was Monty several times a day who removed – ever so gently – Bob's hand from the mouse and urged him on to their walks. And it was Monty who kindled the dream of a forest walk for all to enjoy. Every Saturday and Sunday 'round about noon one could hear the excited barking declamation of Monty as he announced to all that he and Bob were off to their forest. Monty stayed around to see the official opening of the Handicap Trail last Saturday and walked it as his last official 'duty' before going to his rest last Sunday afternoon.

My wife Rosanna suggested, and I agree, that we would like to propose that the new trail be named 'Monty's Way'; after all Monty built

the trail 'his' way. It would honour his and Bob's contribution and give some lore to the history of the trail. If this is agreeable we would like to donate the sign.

Yours sincerely, Mike Ross. Rosanna Stall

Soon many supportive responses poured in and as just a sampling:

I think this a great idea and, if a go, will contribute.—Hear hear. Terry and I were just discussing same and think it's a brilliant idea!—This is the absolutely best way to honor a man who has done soooooo much for Sandy Hook. What wonderful people you are to come up with this suggestion. Is there any way we can contribute something. "Monty's Way", we love the idea and gesture and I am sure Bob would finally get the thanks and recognition he deserves as he loved that dog so much. Monty was part of everyone's family.—Sounds like a great idea, —What a wonderful tribute to them both! I would be happy to make a \$10.00 donation to assist.— Thank you for thinking of this!—I think naming the Phase II handicap trail after Monty is a great way to indirectly acknowledge Bob's contribution to the Hidden

Continued—next page

Grove. The sign will match the 'Take It Easy' sign in construction, font style and font size. This would be easiest if it were created by the same sign maker.—I agree with this sentiment and I feel it is quite fitting,—Yes, yes.....a brilliant idea. —What a great idea, and so poetically put. I wholeheartedly agree—"Monty's Way." What a truly fitting idea.—What a great idea and also a great email to receive. I support the motion.—I am totally in favour of naming the trail in honour of that wonderful animal.—I think this is a very nice idea

So it culminated in this email sent to all on behalf of the Board of Directors:

I have been given approval by the SGS Board for the name.

This will be the last personal name [animal or human] used for a trail in the Hidden Grove. I know this will upset some people so I will explain:

To name additional trails would dilute the recognition being given to Bob [through Monty's name]. Some have argued that the Trailbuilders should be able to name the trails, since they are the ones that built them. It's true that they have contributed a lot to Hidden Grove. Beginning in 1999, Bob and Monty were among the earliest Trailbuilders, putting in many years before Bob began having leg problems recently. Monty trained himself to clear sticks and branches off the trail without any command.

For all the newcomers reading this, you have no idea how much time and effort Bob put into leading the effort to protect Hidden Grove from complete clear cutting, beginning in 2000. Endless letters to elected officials at all levels of government which had to be renewed every few years as the names changed. Meeting after meeting where he would plead our case to the powers that be, accompanied by carefully crafted maps and handouts. He also orchestrated media coverage and tours whenever he felt it could further our cause. When cutting rights were handed over to the Community Forest he had to develop new strategies and start the whole process over again. More meetings, more letters, more pleas. Gertrude kept the archives for this period including phone logs [this was before email] which fill 6 thick binders. On top of this, Bob created a Hidden Groves website and spent days [weeks?] transferring all the archival data to PDF's. Those who have visited the site know it is a gold mine of information. Using Monty as a model, he created virtual photographic tours of the trails. Even now he spends in excess of 30 hours a week, every week, on the Groves, chasing after grant applications, handling correspondence, maintaining the website and taking photos for the archives. He has tirelessly promoted the Groves in other ways as well such as the creation of the brochure now found in many Sunshine Coast B&B's. In February, 2011 he formed the Sechelt Groves Society in order to get charitable status from the federal government for fund raising. That application alone was 80 pages. SGS is responsible for both the Sechelt Heritage Forest as well as the Hidden Groves.

In short, the success of Hidden Groves and it's trail network is the combined effort of many people. And as with any group effort some people have contributed more than others. Way more. Without Bob there would be no Hidden Groves as we know it today.

Michael Davidson—Secretary/Treasurer

AND SO IT CAME TO BE

