



**NOVA SCOTIA DUCK  
TOLLING RETRIEVER**  
— CLUB OF CANADA —  
EST. 1974

Andy and Eddie are the two early Toller breeders from whose lines Poppy of Wallace and Oakley of Babine come from. Both men have chapters dedicated to them in Gail MacMillan's well-known Toller book, *A Breed Apart*, published in 1998.

Jim passed away in 2017 before he could do anything about these unregistered lines, but he'd started the wheels in motion. One day Barb read a thread on the Worldwide Toller Facebook page about the limited gene pool of the Tollers. The writer of the post was wondering if there were any dogs in Nova Scotia that had never been registered. "I thought that was interesting because I had already started looking for intact Little River Duck Dogs and now with this interest, I thought I better get a move on," she said. "Tollers are still called Little River Duck Dogs in these parts, because that's what they were until they were recognized by the CKC as Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers."

Barb said she found a couple of Little River Duck Dogs, noting that Southwest Nova Scotia was the only area she looked because the dogs in this area would be truest to their lines. "It wasn't that easy to find intact Little Rivers as most people spay or neuter their dogs and fewer families rely on their dogs to help put food on the table."

Although Andy Wallace wasn't interested in having his Tollers registered years earlier, his daughter Lisa and son-in-law Dan Goodwin gave Barb permission to DNA test their female, Poppy of Wallace. Dan and Lisa own Foggybay Tollers and live in Woodstock, Yarmouth County, NS. Andy Wallace and now Lisa and Dan Goodwin have bred unregistered Tollers for over 50 years, averaging a litter a year, selling pups to family and friends or by word of mouth, said Chris Eelman, one of the recipients of a Poppy-Oakley pup who spoke to Dan and Lisa. "Dan told us stories about the importance of the Toller as a hunting companion. How he had sticks in his back pocket, and how he hid behind the shrubbery while Poppy was tolling at the waterfront. About the black ducks that flew in from a distance of more than one kilometre because the tolling worked so well. Of course, the dogs also retrieved the ducks and were part of the company when they went deer hunting because they were quite clever in finding the shot deer that had been hiding," said Chris.

Barb also tracked down Oakley, an eight-year-old male, that may be last of the Babine line. Oakley is owned by Colton and Ashley d'Eon of Hubbards Point, Yarmouth County. "The family that own Oakley are not breeders, they just happened to have an intact family dog they duck hunt with that they allowed me to use in this project," she explained. Chris and Hilikka (Makitalo of Lumous Kennel in Finland, also a recipient of a Poppy-Oakley pup) met the d'Eons and Oakley. "Oakley is a dear, a tennis ball fanatic but whenever his offspring wanted to join him in his game, he was okay with that," said Chris.