



**NOVA SCOTIA DUCK  
TOLLING RETRIEVER**  
— CLUB OF CANADA —  
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Barb and Lisa took Chris and Hilkka to get their photos taken with their pups by the famous Toller sign at Little River, the birthplace of the Toller. "To be honest, it was a bit disappointing because there was nothing at that place except the sign, somewhere along a road," said Chris.

Of course, no trip to Nova Scotia would be complete without a feed of lobster, which was orchestrated by Dan and Lisa. Originally Barb planned to keep a male pup for herself but after much thought she decided to send the pups to British Columbia, Texas, Finland, and the Netherlands so they would be more accessible to people in the Toller world. Although Yarmouth County is the birthplace of the Toller, it's a long distance from the bigger and busier centres where large numbers of people frequently congregate to show and compete with their Tollers. "These pups couldn't stay here, they had to go out and prove themselves," said Barb. "And they are certainly doing that already!"

Updates by the four breeders who the dogs went to are frequently posted on the Wallace-Babine Facebook page so those interested can follow along.

The research involved to get Poppy and Oakley registered using the CKC's Indigenous Breeds registration process was laborious and time consuming. It took three years during which time Barb interviewed many people, searched old newspapers looking for mentions of family dogs and scoured home breeding records. She paid for all the testing on the dogs which included the UC Davis Toller panel, Embark and OFA. The Embark test results showed the dogs shared the Toller genes for 65% and 75% with pedigree Tollers – that means 30% of their genes are not related.

"I just think it would be a shame to lose these two bloodlines if they are viable for the Toller community of today in any way," said Barb. "I decided to take on this project to see if it would be even possible to have these bloodlines added to the Toller registry before they are gone for good and only referred to in the history books."

She compiled the documentation which even included a supporting statement from Claire Wade, Professor of Genetics specializing in Canine Genetics and Genomics at the University of Sydney in Australia.

