



POPPY OF WALLACE AND OAKLEY OF BABINE TOLLERS REGISTERED BY CKC UNDER INDIGENOUS BREEDS POLICY

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

It's been called "history in the making" by Barbara Blauvelt, of ScotiaPride Tollers. She is the breeder behind a unique 2022 historical project that allowed two previously-unregistered Little River Duck Dogs to be fully registered by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) as Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers (Tollers).

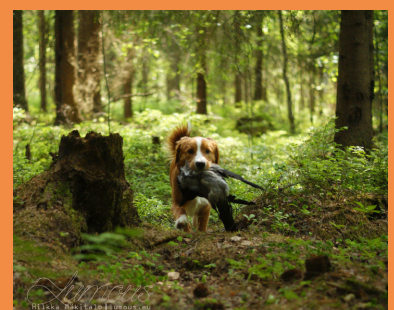
In December of 2022, Poppy of Wallace (female) and Oakley of Babine (male) were added to the Toller registry using the Indigenous Breeds registration process.

Some believe this marked the first time in many decades that the CKC has added previously unregistered Tollers from unregistered parents to the registry under the Indigenous Breeds Policy. For example, long time BC breeder Til Niquidet says she was told by an early Toller breeder, the late Hettie Bidwell (Chin-Peek Kennels), that she had to write to the CKC to have the Tollers she brought from Nova Scotia inspected and re-introduced into the CKC registry in the late 1950s as no Tollers had been registered with the CKC since World War II and the breed had actually been placed in the Miscellaneous class due to a lack of registrations.

A well-known judge at that time, George Donaldson, inspected the Tollers and recommended their entry into the CKC stud book, added Til.

Barbara lives in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia – not far from the Acadian community of Little River where the breed was originally developed in the early 19th century as hunting dogs and family pets. Tollers, she says, were originally called Little River Duck Dogs (Little Rivers for short) or Yarmouth Tollers before 1945 when the CKC recognized the breed, and it was formally renamed the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever.

Over the years of many visits and chats, Barb's mentor, the late Jim Jeffrey of Little River Kennels, a well-known Toller breeder instrumental in the development of the breed, told Barb about two historically-documented Little River Duck Dog breeder lines from Andy Wallace and Eddie Babine. They are still around Southwest Nova Scotia, and were never registered with the CKC when the opportunity arose 50-plus years ago. Jim said how he would like to see these lines preserved and become part of the CKC's purebred Toller registry. Although neither Andy or Eddie were interested in registering their dogs, both continued to breed family hunting and companion dogs.



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