

CELEBRATE KINGS: Pride in our people, places & products

Nova Scotia's Pride

In Delhaven, nestled between the North Mountain and the Minas Basin, flashes of red fur signal the location of Littleriver Kennels Perm Reg'd – home to this province's official dog, the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever.

Doug and Dawn Coldwell began the business in 1969 with brother-in-law Jim Jeffery as partner. The Coldwells became sole proprietors in 1985, and now share the honour of being the world's longest-established breeders of tollers.

Both are retired teachers and lifetime residents of Kings County, from where they have bred and sold more than 1,000 red-coated tollers to carefully selected owners.

Doug is proud to run his business from Kings County. "Location is a state of mind and we picture ours as the centre, with the circle ever-widening."

Their success stems from word-of-mouth referrals and the success of their self-developed web site, toller1.com, resulting in 50 per cent of sales being international.

A truly Nova Scotian dog, the Duck Tolling Retriever was developed for use in

duck hunting during the 1860s in Yarmouth County. Since red foxes are keen duck hunters, the tollers are bred to emulate the red fox in appearance, intelligence, and hunting ability.

The toller has strong retrieving abilities in addition to great hunting and herding instincts. Compact, playful, and intelligent, the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers are also famous for their personalities.

"We like to say they have a Nova Scotian personality," says Doug. "They have down-home characteristics – they like company and hate to miss anything!"

Gail Huntley agrees. She and husband Martin bought their dog Maggie from Littleriver Kennels and believe the toller's personality was her most winning feature. "Maggie was absolutely wonderful with the kids, not just ours but everyone's. The best thing about her was her tempera-

ment." Though Maggie has passed away, Gail says, "If I were to get another dog, I would get one like her. She was a great family pet!"

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers are also competitive show dogs. Many of the industry's top honors have been bestowed on Littleriver tollers. In 2000, Champion Littleriver's Argus, fondly known as Gus, was honoured as the Top Toller in Canada.

Through the years, the Coldwells have enjoyed numerous adventures with their dogs. Doug, a natural storyteller, keeps a permanent record of these tales. His first book *The "Love" of Tollers* (copyright 1999) sold out in its first edition, however, part two is now available in e-book form on line.

Doug and Dawn remain busier than ever with the 15 dogs in their kennel. And with the growing popularity of the Kings County-bred tollers, true retirement may never come!



**Kings Community Economic
Development Agency**

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Together making Kings County a better place to live

Doug and Dawn Coldwell, with "Gus," Canada's Top Toller in 2000.