

THE CITY

Big and tall men can now find clothes that fit in city

Retail Two new stores open their doors at East Point Shopping on Thursday

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TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN – At six-foot-seven, Big & Tall salesman Dan Johnston no longer has to drive to Moncton to find clothes to fit his lanky frame.

“I finally have a store I can shop at,” Johnston said.

There are five Tip Top Tailor stores in the province, but the opening of the Saint John location Thursday marks only the second Big & Tall store in the province.

Tip Top Tailors and Big & Tall will share a 4,500-square-foot store at East Point Shopping. While the Tip Top Tailor side of the store will cater to those of average size, the Big & Tall side of the store will cater to those of larger dimensions. In stock, shoppers will be able to find size 66 pants, ties that are 15 centimetres longer than regular ties

and shirts that can accommodate a 21-inch neck.

Dave Melanson, district manager with Tip Top, believes the new location is more convenient.

“You basically roll into our parking lot, step out of your car and you’re through our doors,” Melanson said. “That’s the big thing.”

“Typically it has its own identity,” he said of the Big & Tall clothing line.

Bob Christie, senior vice-president of real estate and business development at Toronto-based Grafton-Fraser, said they’re looking forward to getting the doors of the store open.

“Obviously they’ll see a new upgraded Tip Top store of approximately the same size that was in McAllister (Place), but they’ll also see an equal size Big & Tall which isn’t in the Saint John market,” Christie said.

Grafton-Fraser is one of the country’s

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Six-foot-seven salesman Dan Johnston, left, and Tip Top Tailors district manager Dave Melanson hold a pair of size 66 pants at the new Big & Tall at East Point Shopping.

leading clothing retailers.

“In any market, the rule of thumb has been that there’s about 12 per cent of the population which is oversized in terms of tall or larger sizes,” Christie said.

On April 5, TD Bank will open a branch at East Point Shopping. May 27 will bring the much anticipated opening of Atlan-

tic Canada’s largest Costco.

East Point developer Troy Northrup wouldn’t divulge future plans, but said the shopping area will soon be announcing additional stores.

“There will be more,” he said.

Currently the site located along Retail Drive on the east side is home to Fair-

weather, Indigo Books & Music, Moores, Urban Planet, Glamour Secrets, International Clothiers, Randy River, Home Depot, Le Chateau, Roots 73, Hampton Inn & Suites, Montana’s Cookhouse, Starbucks and Nakai Spa.