

THE CITY

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Developer Troy Northrup on the Costco site Monday as an excavator continues work on the Retail Drive site for the world's largest membership warehouse club chain, based on sales volume..

Getting ready for Costco

Commerce Work preparing the site for the big box store should be completed by this summer

ANDREW MCGILLIGAN
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN – The land deal is complete and site work has begun for the new Costco store coming to Saint John.

The store will be located on Retail Drive and will become newest addition to East Point Shopping.

Troy Northrup, the man behind the East Point development, says he's excited about getting to work on preparing the site.

"Absolutely, it's very satisfying to see the activity and I think it's great for the city," Northrup said.

With the land transaction complete,

Northrup said a cut and fill of the land has begun.

"We'll be preparing the pad over the next few months and everybody will see lots of activity in the area," he said.

"If you look at the typography, there's low points and high points. We're cutting the high points off and putting it in the low spots to level the site.

"It's very similar to what we did with Home Depot."

The Costco site is approximately 13 acres and Northrup expects the site work and pad to be completed by the end of July or early August.

"As far as any further dates, I can't confirm at this time," he said of a possible

opening date for the store.

Costco Wholesale Corporation is the largest membership warehouse club chain in the world based on sales volume.

Costco will join other big name retailers and restaurants in the East Point development including Indigo Books and Music, Home Depot and Starbucks.

"This latest construction is a continuation of the process that started with Home Depot a few years ago. It continued with the opening of Hampton Inn, Indigo Books and Music, Starbucks, Montana's Cookhouse and many fashion shops," Northrup said.

"We are extremely pleased with the

consumer support we are seeing at East Point and look forward to making a number of new announcements soon."

Northrup would not elaborate on what some of the announcements might be.

Some business owners on Rothesay Avenue had expressed concern the Costco development could cause major flooding problems to their low-lying operations during heavy rainfall. Storm water management consultant Ron Hiltz has said the Costco site will pose less of a flood risk when the retail store is built than it does now after crews install a storm water drainage system that will exceed the city's requirements.