

# THE CITY

SECTION C / MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010

TELEGRAPHJOURNAL.COM



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People driving through Saint John on the Throughway now have a clear view of the new Costco, which is scheduled to open in late spring.

## Opening of Atlantic Canada's largest Costco on horizon

**Development** Construction of the 142,000 square foot store is in the final stages

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SAINT JOHN – Towering high over the city's east side, the largest Costco store in Atlantic Canada is set to open by late spring.

Construction is in the final stages with most of the building complete, says Troy Northrup, the developer behind East Point Shopping.

"It's sort of the conclusion of an 11-year discussion from the first time we started speaking to and pursuing Costco,"

Northrup said.

"It's certainly exciting, just as a citizen of Saint John, to see them come to the city."

Costco is a warehouse membership store that sells everything from food to appliances and electronics.

The 142,000-square-foot store off Retail Drive will be the latest addition to the East Point Shopping development, which includes an Indigo book store, an open-air mall of clothing stores, a Home Depot and a Montana's Restaurant. A new TD Bank is also under construction,

set to open this spring.

The massive Costco will act as the centerpiece to Northrup's development, which started in 2006, carved out of the side of a rugged hill of shale and quartz. By the time the Costco is built, the development will be a little more than half-way complete.

The Saint John Costco location will be the second in New Brunswick, but 25,000 square feet bigger than the one in Moncton.

As motorists drive along Highway 1, they can see the sprawling warehouse, and Northrup hopes the store will attract more shoppers to stop and stay in Saint John.

"It's going to benefit all the stores in the

east end," he said. "It will be a very large benefit for the stores at East Point but also a great benefit and draw for the entire community."

The store will likely attract shoppers from Charlotte County, Fredericton and Sussex, and maybe even Moncton if people want greater selection, Northrup said. Costco memberships can be used anywhere in the world.

"In the past, shopping has always been perceived as a luxury, but in today's world, it's really an essential service," he said.

While the Costco helps make Saint John a retail destination, Northrup said it will also help Saint Johners to shop where they live and work.