

“It’s great for the community. It’s great for the retailers. It’s great for everybody.” TROY NORTHRUP

THE CITY

Skating, big box style

Recreation The developer of East Point has opened a rink with the help of sponsors

JEFF DUCHARME
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN—It’s not Rockefeller Plaza, at least not yet. Troy Northrup decided that the one thing missing from his development on the east side was a skating rink, so he built one.

The 75 by 150 foot rink is open for skaters and everyone is welcome to enjoy an outdoor skate on the lighted ice surface.

“There’s been so much talk about lack of rink space and it seems to be such a big issue for the communities, we thought it would be a nice touch and a great thing to offer to the community,” Northrup said.

Northrup’s East Point Shopping development is slowly sprawling over 700,000 square feet on top of Eastmount hill. In short order, Northrup has been able to attract some of the largest retailers in the country. Stores such as book-retailing giant Indigo, coffee icon Starbucks and restaurant chain Montana’s Cookhouse



CINDY WILSON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Troy Northrup hopes his new Eastpoint rink will help alleviate the region's shortage of ice time. The official opening is this weekend.

will open in the coming months and join those already located there.

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The Telegraph-Journal, Home Depot, K100, Wolseley Industrial Products Group, PCL Packaging Corporation, Westmorland Homes, Renforth Construction, Steve Craig Electrical, Atlan-

tic Signs, 97.3 the Wave and the City of Saint John and Liteco are all sponsors of the project.

With a constant freeze and thaw and almost 100 millimetres of rain in five days, getting the rink up and running this winter was a challenge.

“We’re considering, if it’s well received by the community, a more permanent ice

surface,” Northrup responded, not wanting to give too many of his future plans away.

Northrup is asking those that use the unsupervised rink to abide by some simple rules: no hockey; public skating is from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; helmets are recommended; be respectful of other skaters and spectators; parents are responsible for

children; kids 12 and under must be under the direct supervision of an adult; and East Point Inc. is not responsible or liable for injury or for theft or loss of items left in the change area.

“We’re constantly reevaluating and watching and looking for different ideas and this won’t be the only thing we come forward with.”