

Albion Place: A true “power” centre

By **Clare O'Connor**

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An exciting new development is taking shape in Nova Scotia. An area under construction along the TransCanada highway between Stellarton and New Glasgow will soon become home to the Albion Place Power Centre — a large retail area featuring amenities such as hotels, restaurants and shops.

“We plan to have the centre up and running by April 1, 2011,” says Paul Brown, vice-president of commercial operations for Sunrise Brokerage. “This will definitely be a major shopping destination site for the north shore of Nova Scotia.”

And, according to Brown, it's just the beginning.

“We're in the first phase of development now and that covers 100 acres of land. But we have 800 acres that we plan to develop in five stages with the first phase being entirely retail. Our plan for the second phase is a combination of retail wholesale and retail service. It's too early to tell what the focus will be for stages three to five. That will depend on how things progress.”

But, so far so good, says Brown.

“We've sold very quickly in phase one and are now already selling into phase two. We've had a great response.”

The development has also received a great response from business and political leaders in the community.

“This business park is a strategic asset for Pictou County and we would like to see businesses take advantage of the excellent opportunities that this represents,” says Gerald Gabriel, executive

director of the Pictou Regional Development Agency. “It gives Pictou County an opportunity to put its best foot forward.”

For Stellarton mayor Joe Gennoe, Albion Place Power Centre will also provide an opportunity for much needed economic growth.

“Within the next year, we hope to have 1,000 people working at the centre. Our area needs to have sustainable business options in order to keep professionals here. This development is very exciting for everyone,” says Gennoe.

Although confidentiality agreements prevent Paul Brown from divulging all the stores and businesses that will open their doors at the Albion Place Power Centre, he promises that visitors won't be disappointed.

“We will have stores and shops that don't exist in this area at the moment.”

And, he explains potential traffic issues have been thought out in advance.

“When this centre opens it will be the only highway commercial site between Amherst and Sydney with two exits and two entrances. This is important because we're addressing a potential traffic problem before we get started. With 38,000 cars going by this site everyday, we want to make it easy for visitors to get in and out and we want to support the businesses that will be located on the site.”