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## Retail excitement brewing at Dartmouth Crossing

As previously seen in *The Chronicle Herald*: [thechronicleherald.ca](http://thechronicleherald.ca)

There is plenty of retail excitement building at Dartmouth Crossing, with IKEA's new store plan front and centre.

**Mississauga-based Bird Construction is the biggest winner so far from IKEA's commitment to build a \$100-million store in Dartmouth Crossing.**

Beating off competition from Ellis Don, PCL Constructors, J. W. Lindsay and Pomerleau, Bird's bid to build the 325,000-square-foot store over an estimated 14 months was headed by its senior vice president and Atlantic district manager, Durck DeWinter.

"This is one of the higher profile commercial projects we have been involved with in our quarter century in the Halifax region," DeWinter said in an interview.

DeWinter, a 49-year-old native of Sussex, N.B., started national hotel chain Amsterdam Inn when he was just 27.

The son of Dutch immigrants, he said he has building in his blood. His father's company, Prestige Homes, a prefab home building company, was acquired by the Shaw Group in 1999.

While DeWinter declined to divulge the value of the IKEA work, he said Bird Construction recently completed a \$104-million helicopter facility in Dartmouth and is building the \$91.5 million Downtown Centre in Moncton, a \$41.5-million Hampton Inn and Homewood Suites in Halifax and the \$38.3-million Pictou County Wellness Centre.

Also benefiting from the IKEA effect are cousins Tom and Brad Hickey, who have won the work to transform a former quarry into the IKEA site. Their Eastern Passage company, Atlantic Road Construction & Paving, is now busy blasting at the site.

Scheduled to open in August 2017, the IKEA store will employ 300-350 and will feature retail space that will be more than double Walmart's current 150,000-square-foot space.

Meanwhile, next door will be the new 50,000 square-foot Cabela's, the U.S. outdoor retailer. Spokeswoman Bonnie Kettler told the Chronicle Herald Cabela's would build the store in its new Cabela's Canada layout and design featuring an immersive outdoor experience.

Once Cabela's opens its doors sometime in 2017, Dartmouth Crossing will offer shoppers more than 1.7 million square feet of retail space.

Bombay is one of four new stores to join the Crossing's 100 stores during the past few months. The national furniture retail chain opened its doors recently at the Village Shops on Hector Gate, across from the Go Wild! play area.

Nearby is women's clothing retailer Suzy Shier, which opened in February; Party City, which has moved in across from Moxie's Grill and Bar on Countryview Drive; and Jiffy Lube, which moved into Kiltearn Row last September.

The final recent arrival is Stitches Warehouse Outlet which opened its 151st Canadian store at Gale Terrace at the end of February, taking over Future Shop's former premises. The store's parent company is Toronto-

based YM Inc, which in February also opened an Urban Kids store on Chain Lake Drive within Halifax's Bayers Lake commercial park. YM Inc is among North America's leading apparel retailers operating more than 700 stores across Canada and the U.S.

Still at planning stage is an eight-storey, 190-room hotel that's set to begin construction in 2017, near the Tim Hortons in Dartmouth Crossing. Crossing spokesperson Ann-Louise McKinnon was keeping mum on details of the new hotel, though she did tell the Chronicle Herald that several other retailers will soon announce they'll be establishing in the park.

Looking further ahead, landlords will be crossing their fingers that Halifax realtor Don Gardiner selects it from one of three sites he told the Chronicle Herald he's currently considering for a 20,000-seat, privately financed stadium.

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