

# timesglobe

## PORT SAINT JOHN 'POSITIONED FOR PERFORMANCE,' SAYS CEO

EMMA MCPHEE  
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

**SAINT JOHN** • As Port Saint John's \$205-million west side modernization project enters its final year of construction, port CEO Craig Bell Estabrooks shared the strategic vision of what's to come with members of council Monday night.

Presenting virtually, four months to the day that he took on his role at the helm of the port authority, Bell Estabrooks said Port Saint John is "positioned for performance," and expecting to see its workforce grow and traffic pick up as a result

of the modernization project.

So far, \$150 million has been spent of the \$205-million project, Bell Estabrooks said, and the new berth will be completed by early 2023.

The west side modernization project will result in a strengthened and lengthened pier structure at the west side container terminal and a deepened main channel. The result will allow for new shipping opportunities, by allowing the port be able to accommodate larger vessels with more cargo.

The current project means the port will increase its capacity from 150,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) to 300,000

TEUs.

With that in mind, Bell Estabrooks said he expects traffic volumes at the port to increase. Already there has been over \$300 million of private equity pouring into the port as a response to the \$205-million project, he said.

Saint John will also likely see more trains coming through, he added.

"With more activity, we will see more train traffic. There's no question," he said, adding the port is in discussions with landowners to better understand what increased rail traffic will mean for them.

Along with increased traffic at the port, Bell Estabrooks said the workforce is also

poised to grow. A committee called the workforce partnership coordinated by the department of Post-secondary Education, Training and Labour and working with groups like terminal operator DP World, the longshoremen's union, the newcomers association and the Saint John Learning Exchange is already looking at the potential employment opportunities that will come about as business at the port grows.

Besides the west side modernization project, Bell Estabrooks also addressed the port's commitment to port-wide

PLEASE SEE →PORT, B3

## Jury trial chosen by cop

Const. Benaiah Sok accused of using excessive force during an arrest

MIKE LANDRY  
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

**SAINT JOHN** • A Saint John Police Force officer accused of using excessive force during an arrest last year has asked for a jury to hear his case.

A lawyer representing Const. Benaiah Sok entered the officer's election during a scheduled appearance on Monday morning.

Sok, 28, himself wasn't present in court. He hasn't appeared for any of his three hearings.

Instead, an agent for Sok's lawyer provided the court with a signed notice of election from Sok.

Sok has retained lawyer Nathan Gorham to handle his case.

Sok is alleged to have committed bodily harm to Preston Richards during an assault on Aug. 22, 2021 in Saint John. According to the prosecutor's information sheet included in Sok's court file, the offence allegedly happened at 12:45 a.m.

The allegation was investigated by Fredericton police.

In a press release announcing the charge in December 2021, Saint John police stated that the investigation was the result of a public complaint. A spokeswoman with the Fredericton Police Force confirmed this, adding that the original complaint was sent to the Saint John Police Force's professional standards unit and forwarded to Fredericton police on Sept. 3.

It was Chief Robert Bruce with Saint John Police Force, in the police press release, who linked Sok's charges to an allegation of excessive force.

Sok, who previously served in the military, joined the Saint John Police Force as a recent police academy graduate in January 2019.

Sok remains on the force with his case before the court. He's now on administrative duties with no contact with the public, the force has stated. A Police Act investigation will follow the conclusion of the court

PLEASE SEE →COP, B2

### Moosehead Breweries gives back



Andrew Oland, left, president and CEO of Moosehead Breweries, receives a painting from L'Arche Saint John's Krista Simmons and Zoel Breau. Moosehead Breweries donated \$10,000 to L'Arche Saint John's Brighter Futures Fund, a campaign to sustain and grow the organization's inclusive housing and day programs for adults with intellectual disabilities in the region. PHOTO: L'ARCHE SAINT JOHN

## New charge against alleged attacker once on the run

## Campobello properties generate bidding wars