

## Maynooth Scotiabank to close

By Jenn Watt

Scotiabank's branches in Wilberforce and Maynooth will be closing as of January with operations consolidating in the Bancroft branch.

Customers' preference for online and mobile banking have forced the company to make changes, spokesperson Heather Armstrong said.

"Eighty per cent of transactions in Canada now take place outside the branch," Armstrong said in an interview with the paper.

Scotiabank decided it needed to close the two small branches after a review of the market, which took into account the number of customers using the facilities and the way they do their banking.

"And after careful consideration of operations in both Wilberforce and Maynooth communities we've made the difficult decision that we're going to consolidate those branches into our branch in Bancroft," Armstrong said.

That consolidation will take place Jan. 19, 2017.

Staff were informed of the change on Tuesday, June 14. There are six staff at the Wilberforce branch and three at the Maynooth location.

"We very much hope that many of them [the staff] will make the transition to the Bancroft branch with us," she said, noting that for those who do not, the bank will "assist them with finding alternative employment within Scotiabank."

Customers will be receiving letters in the mail about the change advising them of upcoming town-hall-style meetings in Wilberforce and Maynooth July 11 and 12 respectively. Information on the meetings will also be available at the branches.

"While we're not making the change until January, we're telling staff and customers now in order to give them as much notice as possible so that we can assist them with this transition," Armstrong said.

She stressed that Scotiabank was aware of the inconvenience the decision may create and will be working to assist customers with the change.

Hours at the Bancroft branch will be extended and they will be opening on Saturdays as well.

Wilberforce's Scotiabank branch opened in 1969. Maynooth's opened in 1980.