

The Galaxy Motel

An Andover Landmark Since 1964

By Robert LaFrance

Ask just about anyone over thirty, “What is the name of that motel just beyond the Trans Canada Highway overpass on the Andover side of Perth-Andover?” and they’re likely to say it’s the Galaxy.

Then, after a moment’s thought, they might remember that it is now called the Perth-Andover Motor Inn.

The building (and the business) has been a landmark of the village since 1964, although it sits several hundred metres outside the municipal limits. Like so many Perth-Andover businesses, it was begun by an entrepreneur who had many irons in the fire both before and after the building was constructed. Eugene Campbell built it in 1964 and sold it less than a year later.

“I made it basically to sell,” he explained. He is now retired and living part of the year along McCrea Flat and part of the year in Florida. “We had to enhance the chances of selling it, so we furnished all twenty rooms and started it up. I bought the furniture and decided on the name Galaxy.”

Why that name? He said the way the motel was built reminded him of a cluster, a cluster of rooms, like a galaxy, so he decided on the name. The motel was designed by a young Fredericton engineering firm called Neill and Gunter.

The motel was built by United Contractors, a company Eugene Campbell had formed the same year, and was one of its first projects. Another big one occurred the next year when they built Victoria Glen Manor

nursing home on Beech Glen Road. “The company was later bought from me by Bud Doherty and Harold Banford. Banford was working for me. He and Bud had gone to university together so they got together and bought it.” United Contractors also still exists, with head office on Beech Glen Road.

Campbell bought the land on which the motel would sit from a local farmer, Carl Nielsen, who had worked the ground and had raised a family there. By the next year Eugene Campbell sold the motel to Alden Lunn and Charlie Green (who also operated Beechwood Motel at the time) and later Alden Lunn and his wife, Joan, ran it. Among the later owners were Raymond Robinson, Bhupee Patel, and Bill and Sheila Linton who invested significantly in renovations, paving, and face-lifting.

Among the other businesses Eugene Campbell began, ran or helped run were: Victoria Contractors (with Lawrence Lockhart), A. G. Campbell & Son (begun by his father Addington), and Tobique Enterprises, whose innovative methods resulted in a successful company that invented and sold fireplace logs, mosquito coils and other products and was eventually bought by multinational giant Johnson Wax (McAsphalt is in that location in 2013).