

June 28, 2017

Quinsam Hotel destroyed by fire

Campbell River's iconic Quinsam Hotel was destroyed by fire overnight.

"One person was sent to hospital for smoke inhalation, but everyone got out thanks to working fire alarms," says fire chief Ian Baikie.

The fire department was called to the scene at midnight and worked until 5 a.m. to extinguish the flames. The extensive damage caused parts of the building to collapse, and Highway 19A was temporarily closed for fire fighting.

"The building is a complete loss, and cause of the fire is under investigation," Baikie adds.

According to archives from Museum at Campbell River, construction of the Quinsam Hotel began in 1917 by Tom Laffin, who sold the incomplete hotel to Ken Bergstrom, who partially finished and sold it to Jim English. English finished construction circa 1923-1925 and sold it in 1959 to Jack Ross, who made a series of renovations, including an enlarged beer parlour and dining room.

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Photos: Fire at Quinsam Hotel and historic photos of Quinsam Hotel