

Timeline for the Hotel Quinte Property

1842 William Dafoe purchases land for the “Dafoe House.”

1847 The Dafoe House opens.

1855 The Dafoe House burns down for the first time.

1857 The Dafoe House is rebuilt.

1886 The Dafoe House burns down for the second time.

1887 William Dafoe sells the land to Henry Corby.

1895 Hotel Quinte opens on February 28.

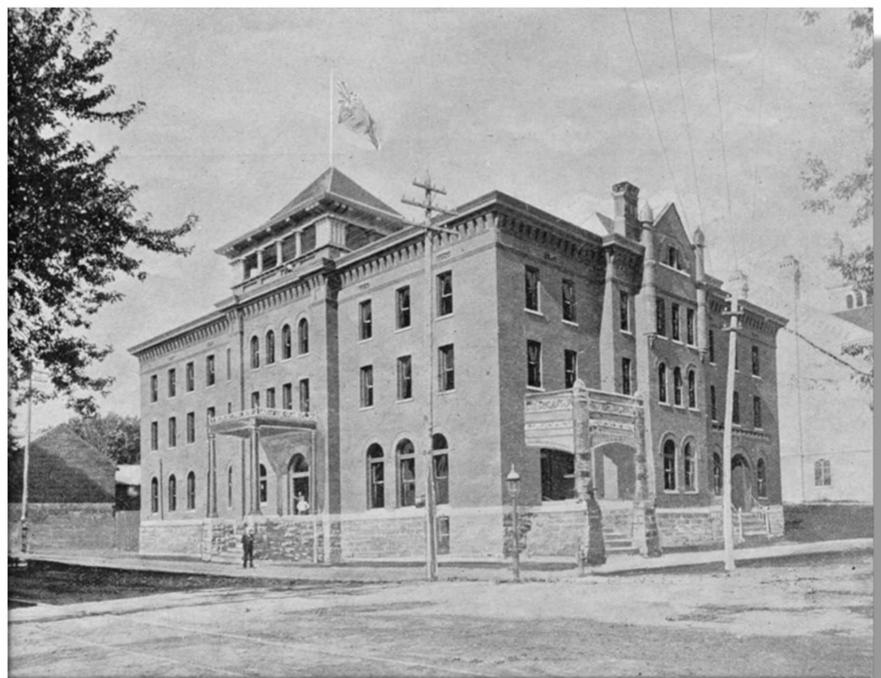
1907 Hotel Quinte suffers a disastrous fire on January 5.

1908 Hotel Quinte celebrates re-opening on February 27.

2012 Hotel Quinte burns down for the second time.



Dafoe House (HCM0097)



Hotel Quinte ca. 1895 (HC00623)



Hotel Quinte, mid-1930s (HC04762)

The Dafoe House, 1847 to 1886

The Dafoe House was built in 1847 by William Dafoe and became the pre-eminent hotel in Belleville. It stood at the corner of Pinnacle Street and Bridge Street.



(HCM0097)

DAFOE HOUSE.
 BELLEVILLE, C. W.,
Corner of Bridge and Pringle Sts
THIS House is now open to the public and Travelling community, and will be conducted as a **FIRST CLASS HOTEL** with charges comparing favorably with second Class Houses. The bar will be supplied with the best of Liquors and the table will be always provided with the **Choicest delicacies the Markets can afford**
 Every accommodation usually found in first Class Houses, may be relied on, with the advantages, also, of liberal charges. Farmers will find this House equally as reasonable as any other Hotel in Town. Good yards and Stabling attached to the premises, and careful Hostlers always in attendance.
 An Omnibus always ready to convey passengers to and from the Cars and Steamboats.

Weekly Intelligencer, April 23, 1847

THE DAFOE HOUSE has risen, Phoenix like, from its ashes, through the perseverance of Messrs. Dafoe, and at this moment stands forth in its wonted length, breadth, and height,—that is to say, it is 124 feet long by 44 deep, and three stories high.

Hastings Chronicle, August 19, 1857

The Dafoe House burned down in 1855 but was rebuilt in 1857.

It was advertised “open to the public” as a “first class hotel.” Pinnacle Street was misnamed “Pringle” in this advertisement.



(HC00882)

View from City Hall tower of the Dafoe House (centre left) taken after the February 26, 1876 fire at St. Thomas Church (upper right)



(HC04622)

View looking south on Pinnacle Street showing the Dafoe House about 1875. Note the brick addition on the left and the tracks on Pinnacle Street.

This building burned down in 1886 and the property was sold to Henry Corby.

The First Hotel Quinte Opens, 1895

DAILY INTELLIGENCER. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1895.

HOTEL QUINTE OPENED TO-DAY

THE BUILDINGS AND FURNISHINGS SECOND TO NONE IN THE PROVINCE.

A Long-Felt-Want Filled—A Technical Description of the Building—Modern Equipments and Magnificent Furnishings—A Short Sketch of the Manager and His Staff—Notes.

A long looked-for event occurred to-day noon when the doors of Hotel Quinte were thrown open to the public. There was no formal ceremony and when the stream of visitors began to make their way through the long corridors and well-furnished rooms they found everything looking as though the house had been doing business for years, except that the furnishings are all new and bright. Manager Hunter wore his blandest smile and he was congratulated on every hand on the palatial hostelry over which he has the honor to preside.

Hotel Quinte will fill one of Belleville's long-felt-wants and be a great benefit to the city in more ways than one. It will not only furnish a comfortable and modern stopping place for travellers and tourists, but will tend to act as an advertising medium for the progressiveness of our citizens. The house will also be a pleasant home for those of our citizens wishing to secure elegant apartments combined with excellent cuisine.

The company is composed of the following gentlemen: Messrs. H. Corby, M.P., W. H. Biggar, M.P.P., U. E. Thompson, Thos. Ritchie, John Bell, Q.C., Col. Lazier and D. M. Waters. They have had many difficulties to surmount, and that they have succeeded in having erected one of the neatest, most convenient and most modern hotels in Canada must be proud to

dish washing supplied with hot and cold water taps. East of the kitchen is the servants' dining room and store room with stairs leading to the basement and first floors.

The dining room is 37 ft. by 45 ft., 14 ft. panelled ceiling, fronts on Pinnacle street and is also a corner room; has screened coils and marble slabs located around the room so as to answer for distributing points for waiters. On either side of the entrance to the dining room is the



H. CORBY, M. P.,
PRESIDENT OF THE HOTEL QUINTE CO'Y.

ladies' parlor and ladies' ordinary, which has for heating (radiators) gas grates and mantels in corner of rooms. Leaving the dining room and entering the main hall is where the elevator and main stair are located. This is also the ladies' entrance. This floor from the dining room including the south wing (on Bridge St.) is laid with Vermont marble.

The principal entrance to the office, which is on the corner of Bridge and Pinnacle streets, is from Bridge st. and is connected with the main hall and entrance to the dining room by arches, the heads of which are filled with

The office is 48x40

There are also linen closets on each floor and speaking tubes in corridor connected with office. All rooms, &c., have electric and gas lights and the fixtures are the "blue steel finish." All bed rooms have "return call and fire alarm" electric bells. In addition to main stairs are stairs at the east ends of each corridor to second floor. The elevator is in the well of the main stairs, which is in the centre of the building. At the ends of each corridor fire escapes will be placed. The plans of the second floor are similar to the first floor with the addition of the stair to the tower.

The different firms who have had a hand in the building and equipments are Gillen & Gillen, Architects; George Wilson, contractor, Kingston; Sub contractors—Harris & Walton, mill work; Geo. Twining, painter; Elliott Bros., Kingston, plumbers and heaters; Douglas Bros., Toronto, tinners, &c.; Jno. Lorigan, Montreal, marble floors; J. W. Walker, Belleville, hardware, &c.; Jno. Ferguson, Toronto, elevator; J.W. Scott, Ottawa, electrician; American Copper Co., gas and electric lighting fixtures; C. F. Smith & Co., extra plumbing; S. T. Harris, carpenter work; London Furniture Co.; Wrought Iron Range Co., Toronto; Meriden Britannia Silver Co.; Geo. Ritchie & Co., carpets, curtains, etc., and several other firms who have had smaller contracts.

The servants' quarters, laundry and extra sample rooms are situated in a building just north of the main building and connected by an enclosed passage way on the second floor. This structure is also of brick, two stories in height and is neatly built and fitted up throughout. The servants' rooms are on the second floor and are light, cosy and well-ventilated, and furnished with neat iron bedsteads with springs and mattresses, dressers, washstands and chairs. G. S. Tickell & Sons furnished these rooms. There is also a closet and steel clad bath tub on this floor. In the

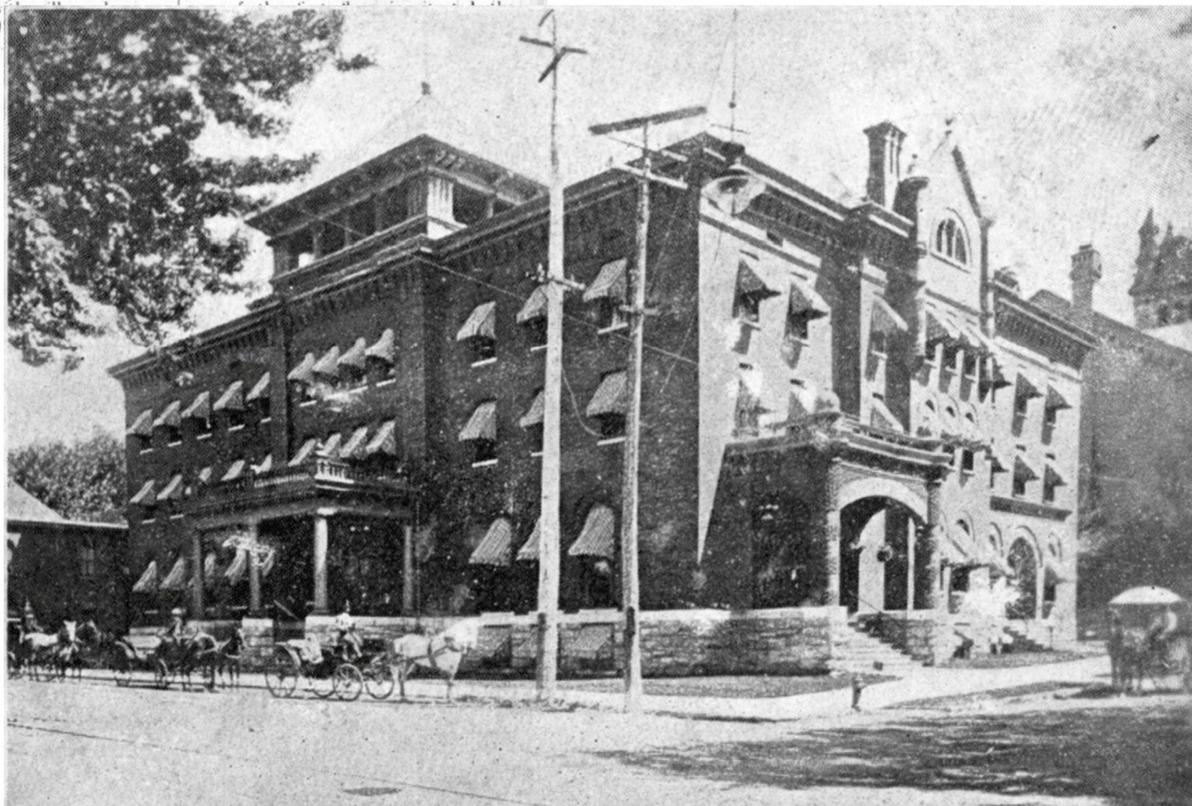
Built on the site of the old Dafoe House, the first Hotel Quinte opened to the public in 1895.

The local newspaper gave a detailed description of the building and furnishings, "second to none in the province."

Daily Intelligencer, February 28, 1895

The brick building was three storeys in height, with a foundation constructed of Point Anne stone.

A square tower rose 40 feet above the roof.



(HC07612 cropped)



Horse-drawn omnibus transportation was provided for guests at the hotel.

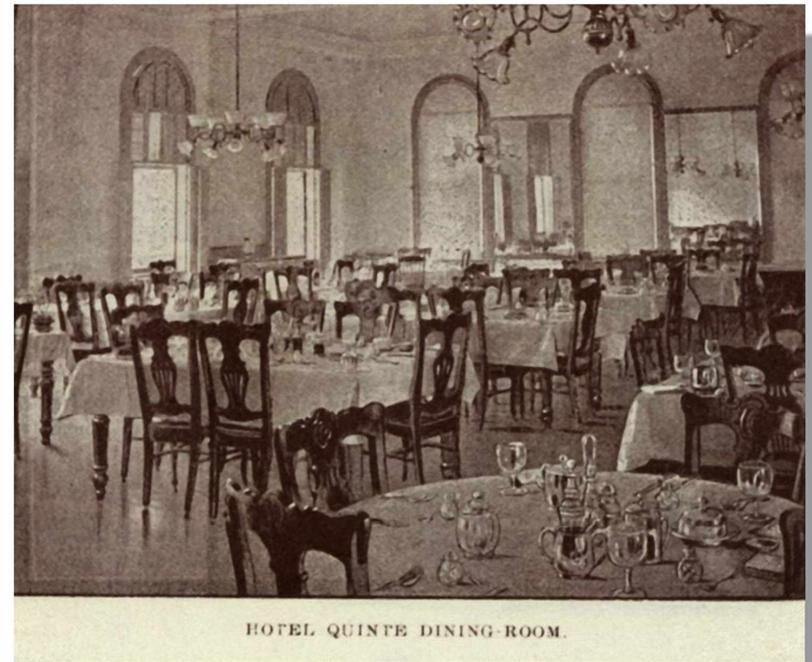
(HC00879)

Interior Views of First Hotel Quinte



Bavarian china bowl made especially for Hotel Quinte.

Courtesy of Gerry Boyce.



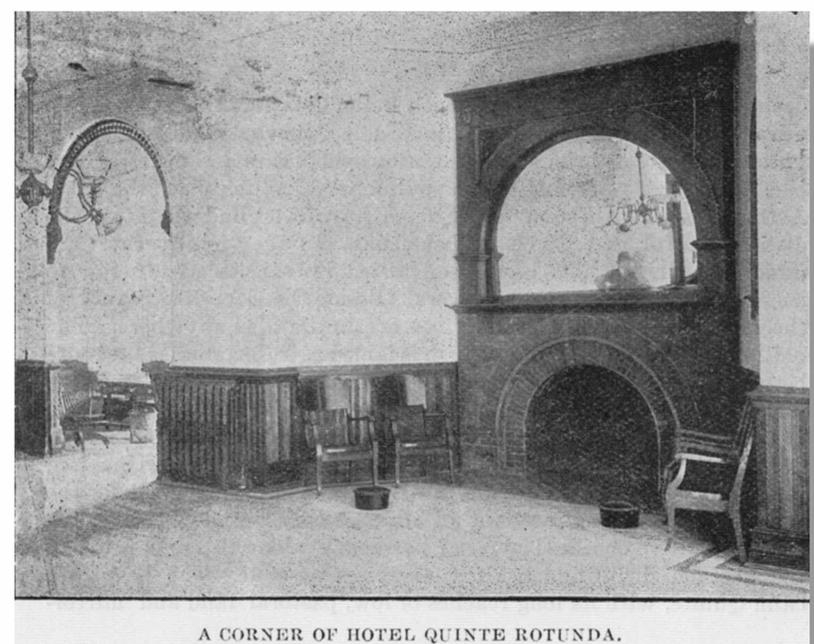
HOTEL QUINTE DINING-ROOM.

A 48-page souvenir booklet on the Hotel Quinte and City of Belleville was published in about 1895. The three photographs on the right are from this booklet.

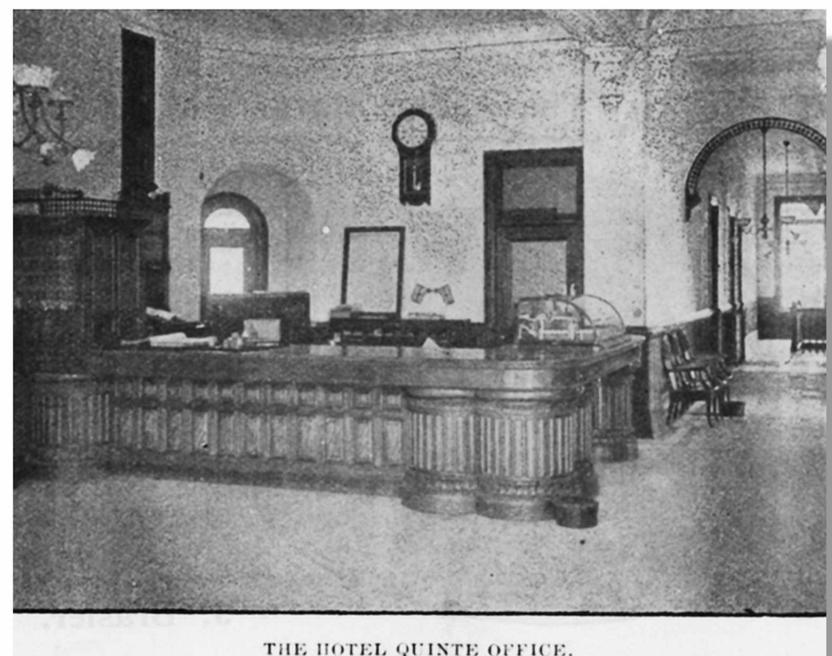
Top right image shows the dining room with 14-foot panelled ceiling and chandeliers with double service of gas and electricity. The room could seat 200 guests.

Centre right: a corner of the rotunda with spittoons on the floor

Bottom right: the reception desk of quartered oak, in the office



A CORNER OF HOTEL QUINTE ROTUNDA.



THE HOTEL QUINTE OFFICE.

HCHS file 267C

The First Hotel Quinte Burns, 1907

Belleville's Calamity; Quinte Burns Down.

**Fire Believed to Have Started From Electric Wire,
and Spread Under Floors Before Discovered--
Many Guests Lost Effects--Two Narrow Es-
capes--Losses and Insurance--History of the
Famous Hotel--Incidents of the Disaster.**

By 10.30 a tremendous crowd had arrived on the scene, and Bridge St., the post office corner and Pinnacle street were packed with spectators. "A calamity for Belleville" was the general verdict.

In the rear of the hotel, as one stood at the back of Bridge Street Church, it could be seen that no human power could save the building. Flames had burst out of the roof, and the whole centre flat was a seething furnace. The crash of breaking glass could be heard in all directions. The firemen were plying their streams bravely, but without avail. The handsome and splendidly appointed Quinte, Belleville's pride, was doomed.

Daily Intelligencer, January 5, 1907



(HC03666)

The hotel suffered a disastrous fire in the early hours of January 5, 1907, as seen in this picture taken later in the morning.

Parts of Quinte Walls Fell Down.

The high wind prevailing last night blew down portions of the Quinte walls which were standing after the fire. Many residents of the east hill heard the crash, and it is said that, should the high wind continue, other parts of the walls are sure to go. Architects, we are told, say that the walls now standing cannot be utilized when the hotel is rebuilt; they must all come down before building operations begin.

Yesterday and to-day the appraisers were here looking over the ruins and examining what salvage had been saved in order to effect a settlement in the insurance of the various companies involved. It is expected that a satisfactory settlement will be effected.

The appraisers have completed their work as far as the building is concerned, and the insurance has been satisfactorily arranged. Mr. Walter Alford was looking after Mr. Jenkins interests in that respect.

The appraisers were to-day busily engaged in estimating the loss upon the contents, which was quite a task.

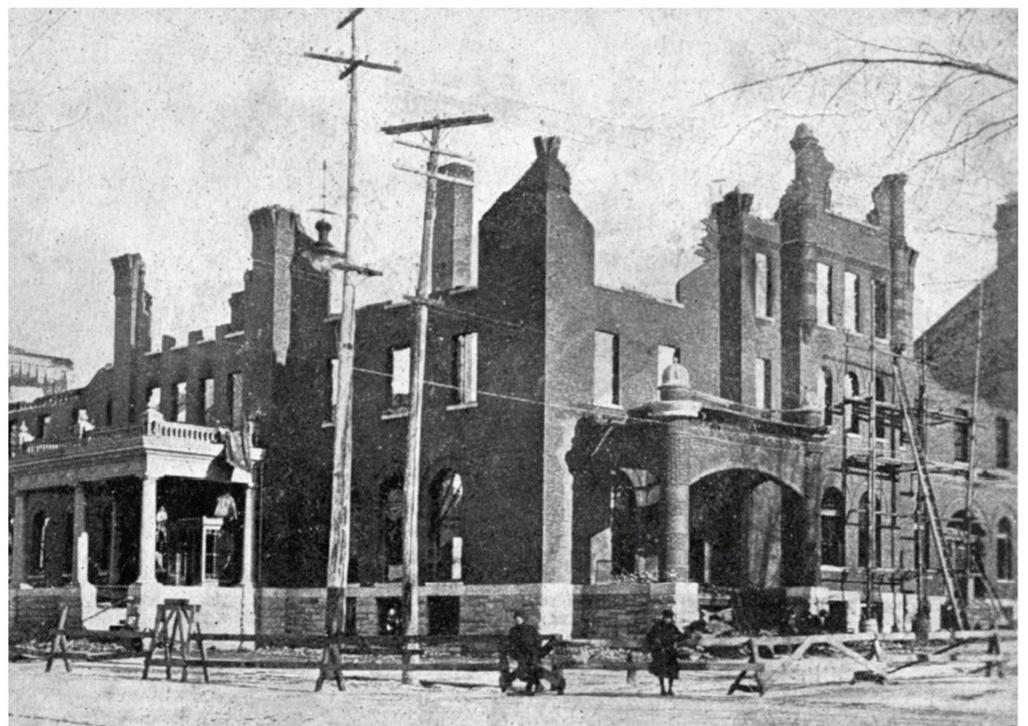
Shortly before noon to-day a large portion of the south wall, facing Bridge street, fell, but caused no damage.

Daily Intelligencer, January 9, 1907

A few days after the fire, high winds wreaked further damage to the remaining structure.

(HC07612 cropped)

The ruins of the hotel can be seen in this picture taken after the walls collapsed.



The Second Hotel Quinte Opens in 1908

After the fire of 1907, a "new" Hotel Quinte was built, four storeys high and "more magnificent than ever." It opened with a banquet on February 27, 1908.



HC04809

Grand Complimentary Banquet to Mr. Harry Corby Last Night, Which Marked Reopening of Hotel Quinte

Belleville's Favorite Son Tendered a Great Demonstration by His Friends from Far and Near-- Speeches Were Eloquent, Witty and Timely, Music Enjoyable, Cuisine and Service Suberb and the Occasion One Never Surpassed in This City.

THE QUINTE TO-DAY.

Elegant and comparatively up-to-date as was Hotel Quinte before the fire, it is completely eclipsed by the magnificent hostelry of to-day. As the visitor steps into the rotunda he is struck by the atmosphere of solidity and luxuriousness which pervades the place. The polished green Mycenaian marble pillars of the rotunda, the tessellated floors, which pervade the whole flat, the mahogany furniture and fittings, all strike one as the acme of solid elegance of design. There is nothing tawdry, nothing "cheap," nothing meretricious; everything seems to be there for a purpose, and that purpose useful, handsome ornamentation; never

intrudes the thought of mere display for the sake of display. The entire scheme is one of subdued elegance, restful to the eye, which gladdens while it gives one a feeling that here the designer has done his work in a masterly way. In the centre of the rotunda floor the words "Hotel Quinte," in mosaics, greet the eye. The walls of the rotunda have a Tennessee marble base, and are finished in green burlap, with dado. The furniture — mahogany, with leather trimmings — looks like comfort personified. Judging by first impressions in the rotunda, the princely Quinte, after its baptism of fire, has risen from its ashes more magnificent than ever.

The Menu

The spread was par excellence. Deft and winsome waitresses served, following being the items on the handsome menu card, printed by the way, at The Intelligencer office:

"So cup to lip in fellowship they gave them welcome high."

— Kipling.

Blue Points	
Clear Green Turtle Soup	Madere
Olives	Salted Almonds
	Celery
	Chicken Halibut
Cucumbers	Parisian Potatoes
Braised Sweetbreads	French Peas
	Tenderloin of Beef, Larded
Fresh Mushrooms	Haricots Verts
	Quinte Punch
	Roast Young Turkey
Julienne Potatoes	Cranberry Sauce
	Waldorf Salad
English Plum Pudding	Cognac Sauce
Neapolitan Ice Cream	Assorted Cake
	McLaren's Imperial Cheese
	Coffee

Selections from the *Daily Intelligencer*, February 28, 1908
(menu reformatted)

The Second Hotel Quinte, 1908 to 2012



Intelligencer fonds.

Hotel Quinte with horse-drawn transportation for guests, ca. 1908



HC06313

View of Hotel Quinte from City Hall tower, ca. 1920s



HC04762

Hotel Quinte, ca. 1930



HC04763

Hotel Quinte with modified porches, ca. 1960



Intelligencer fonds

The Hotel Quinte featured popular themed entertainment rooms such as the Green Door and Gatsby's, as evidenced by this photograph, ca. 1980s.

Interior Views Second Hotel Quinte

The faux marble pillars were a feature of the main floor throughout the life of the second Hotel Quinte. The words "Hotel Quinte" were set in mosaic tiles in the centre of the main floor, as seen in the postcard on the right, ca. 1910.

HC07615



The dining room furniture was of quartered oak and English design.

HC04769

The photograph on the right shows the Fiesta Room about 1980, with later treatment and decor added to the original dining room.

Intelligencer fonds



Above: bride and groom in the Fiesta Room, ca. 1980s

Right: the bar in Gatsby's, ca. 1980s

Both images from *Intelligencer fonds*

