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Sexsmith ponders future of remaining elevators

Photo by William Vavrek Photography

Town ponders maintenance vs. demolition

'You just can't save everything': museum society vice-chair

By Elise Mumert

A cross-county firefighting effort in Sexsmith saved two elevators from a blaze that destroyed a third but now the future of the remaining structures looks bleak.

The tremendous fire has sparked doubt in the hearts of even the most committed to maintaining the historic elevators.

Sexsmith Mayor Claude Lagace said council is currently weighing options regarding the future of the

remaining two elevators.

This week, Sexsmith town council moved to explore costs of maintaining, restoring and fire-proofing the structures vs. demolition.

He says the opinion of the Sexsmith and District Museum Society -- which owns one of the elevators -- will be considered.

According to museum society president James Obniawka, tearing down the remaining elevators is the best option. Restoration

costs are onerous and they remain a hazard to the town, he notes.

Though the razed elevator owned by Viterra had been scheduled for demolition, Obniawka says neither the town nor the Museum Society were prepared for its untimely demise.

"We're fortunate it happened when it did," he said. Had it caught flame in the summertime, he says he is not sure the outcome would have been so positive.

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