



Firefighters work to knock down hot spots in a third-floor apartment above Mollyz Diner on Gottingen Street late Friday afternoon. (ERIC WYNNE / Staff)

# Firefighters limit damage from blaze

By JOSH VISSER

A fire ripped through a third-floor Gottingen Street apartment early Friday evening, forcing the closure of two neighbourhood hot spots, Menz Bar and Mollyz Diner.

Fortunately, due to the quick response of Halifax regional firefighters, the fire did not spread to either the bar or the restaurant.

The apartment, however, appeared to be heavily damaged. The apartment's resident, a middle-aged woman, was in the area, but not at home at the time of the fire.

As firefighters began packing

up their equipment after the fire was put out, the woman was spotted sitting across from the apartment on a ledge, visibly shaken and being comforted by friends.

Doug Melanson, co-owner of the two businesses, said that there was smoke and water damage to each and that they would probably be closed for at least a couple of days.

A restaurant employee said that while he was glad that the fire didn't damage the business too badly, it was unfortunate that it had to happen just before a weekend because that was when he made most of his tips.

"That's rent," he said, rather forlornly.

The fire was reported at about 6:30 p.m., said Platoon Chief Brian Gray of Halifax regional fire service.

He said no one was hurt, but when fire engines arrived, residents of the apartment building were rescuing a dog on the rear fire escape.

Chief Gray said the fire appeared to have started in the third-floor apartment and it was too early to know the cause.

Investigators were expected to be on the site early this morning.

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