

Halliday

new Grey warden



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Newly elected Grey County Warden Stewart Halliday is flanked by his nominators, Meaford Deputy-mayor Harley Greenfield and The Blue Mountains Deputy-mayor Gail Ardiel on Tuesday night at the Grey County council chambers in Owen Sound.

Will have to walk a 'fine line' when it comes to county's LTC plans

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Newly elected Grey County Warden Stewart Halliday says he'll now have to "walk a fine line" when it comes to discussions about the controversial council-approved plan to sell Grey Gables in Markdale and build an amalgamated long-term care home in Durham.

As deputy-mayor of Grey Highlands – where Grey Gables is located – Halliday has been a supporter of keeping the 66-bed home as a county facility.

But as head of county council, Halliday must "represent and support council" and obey its decisions in all things, according to the county's procedural bylaw. He must also refrain from taking part in discussions while in the warden's chair, although he can swap places with a councillor to present his views from the floor.

"I'm just sort of in idle right now. What will be will be. As the chair, I will listen to what our councillors say," he said in an interview Wednesday.

job from both councillors who supported the current long-term care plan and those who did not.

"I didn't get elected, I don't think, just on long-term care," he said.

Halliday defeated West Grey Deputy-mayor John Bell in the election of Grey County's 2018 warden on Tuesday night.

Halliday was nominated by Ardiel and Meaford Deputy-mayor Harley Greenfield.

Halliday is currently serving his first term on county council, earning his spot after being elected Grey Highlands' deputy-mayor in 2014. He served two terms as a councillor in Grey

"I do see that there's a great team that's being set up under the multi-municipal long-term care group and they are gathering momentum, putting together strategies to continue on the fight for keeping Grey Gables.

"So I have to keep my nose out of it, although I was very supportive of keeping Grey Gables. So you have to walk a fine line right now."

He said it could be the province that ends up rejecting the plan to move Grey Gables' beds to Durham.

He pointed to a recent decision by Health Minister Eric Hoskins who announced in late November that he would not approve an application by Revera Living Inc. to relocate as many as 50 long-term care beds from a home in Stratford to London, Ont.

The minister, according to the Stratford Beacon Herald, cited the multitude of public feedback received by the ministry as the prime reason for his decision.

"Sometimes when they go forward with something, the province could be the one that changes the direction of the ship. They

could say they don't agree with removing Grey Gables. So the multi-municipal working group may be the team that convinces the ministry to keep it," he said.

"I say that charge is up to them right now."

The multi-municipal committee is made up of Blue Mountains Mayor John McKean and Deputy-Mayor Gail Ardiel, Chatsworth Deputy-mayor Scott Mackey and Coun. Brian Gamble and Grey Highlands Mayor Paul McQueen and Coun. Terry Mokriy. Its mandate is to gather support to keep Grey Gables in Markdale as a long-term care facility serving residents of eastern Grey County.

County council voted 50-37 in June for the county to begin a process to combine the beds at Grey Gables and the 100 beds at Rockwood Terrace in Durham into a new 166-bed county home in Durham. The plan would see the county sell Grey Gables as a retirement/assisted living facility.

Halliday said he received support in his bid for the warden's

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Highlands before that.

Now retired in Eugenia, Halliday is a registered professional industrial engineer who worked for 38 years in senior manufacturing management positions. He is married to Patricia and the pair has six children and six grandchildren.

In his inaugural address, Halliday said he is "very honoured" to be elected warden.

"I look forward to this new responsibility as your warden and by further working together as a council on the initiatives that have been set in place during the past three years, we now have a chance to bring it all together," he said.

In 2018, Halliday said the county will continue to advocate local issues to the provincial and federal governments, finalize its official plan, attract "emerging, connected, creative and entrepreneurial citizens" to the area, examine issues like improving relationships and partnerships with lower-tier municipalities and market Grey County to investors.

Grey County council elects a warden to a one-year term each December.

Halliday is the first Grey County warden from Grey Highlands since the municipality's then-deputy-mayor David Fawcett held the position in 2005.