

■ **GREY HIGHLANDS:** Hoping province will kick in funds for a consultant

Council looks for

help with Talisman

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Grey Highlands council has set aside \$25,000 toward hiring a consultant to help decide the future of the former Talisman Resort.

"That's our share that we have available. We're seeking additional provincial government funding on top of that," said chief administrative officer Dan Best.

The municipality has applied for funding from the Ministry of

Tourism and Culture and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

"That would allow us to hire a consultant to plan a vision for the property," said Coun. Stewart Halliday.

"We could declare the property surplus and leave it to the wind. We were advised that if you want to see a direction for the future of this property it's probably better to work a strategy."

Meanwhile, a three-person panel has been chosen to inter-

view potential members of a five-person committee that will oversee the selection of a consultant and move forward with determining what's to be done with the former resort.

Twenty-one people will be interviewed on Nov. 12 by members of the panel — Randy Scherzer, head of Grey County's planning department, Bryan Plumstead, head of tourism and economic develop for the county, and Cheryl Brine, economic development consultant with the

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

"It's nice to have representation from levels of government . . . we're tapping into the economic development element, we're tapping into tourism aspect and also the planning aspect, which will all be critical areas in the revitalization of Talisman," Best said during Monday's council meeting.

Following the interviews, Best said he will bring a list of recommendations for the makeup of

the advisory committee for council approval at its Nov. 18 meeting.

Once that committee has been approved, it will begin the process of selecting a consultant. It is to have 90 days to come up with recommendations on what to do with Talisman.

The municipality, which is owed more than \$2 million in back taxes, fees for services and interest, took possession of the former resort last month.

Earlier attempts to recoup the

money through tax sales had failed.

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