



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

COUNCIL ELECT

Congratulations to the Grey Highlands Council Elect for the 2022-2026 Term of office.

- 1 Mayor Elect - Paul McQueen
- 2 Deputy Mayor Elect - Dane Nielsen
- 3 Councillor Elect - Paul Allen
- 4 Councillor Elect - Tom Allwood
- 5 Councillor Elect - Nadia Dubyk
- 6 Councillor Elect - Joel Loughhead
- 7 Councillor Elect - Dan Wickens

New



Council will be sworn into office on December 5th, 2022, with the first meeting of the new Council to take place December 7, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

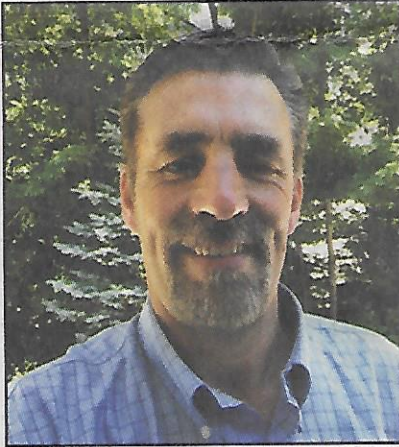
INTAKE #2

Deadline for submissions: December 15, 2022
Further information can be found at
www.greyhighlands.biz or by contacting our team
at ecdev@greyhighlands.ca

Grey Highlands COUNCIL ELECT

What's top of mind for members of the

Polls were still open when last week's Advance went to the printer. Now that votes have been counted, and results announced, here's a round-up of what the 2022-26 council members told the Advance were three issues that were top of mind heading into the new term (not necessarily in order).



PAUL McQUEEN – The returning mayor's first response is "to empower our community to be more involved." For example, the master recreation plan was a report from a consultant, he said. Now, it's up to the council in consultation with the community to decide what to do. He said that the municipality needs more emphasis on the "political lens" in its decision; that is, council setting the direction while keeping the public in mind. At the same time, he said, it's important to remember that staff has a tough job – "they're the ones on the front lines."

Second, Mayor McQueen said that Long Term Care issues are crucial. "We need to go and get Grey Gables back on the table," he said. With a new building in place,

the existing Grey Gables could be turned into assisted living which would provide a revenue stream as well as offering an important option for support close to home.

Third, with the decision on moving to the collection of bins made, "we have to make sure it works best for our people," he said. That includes addressing concerns raised by seasonal residents, for example, he said.

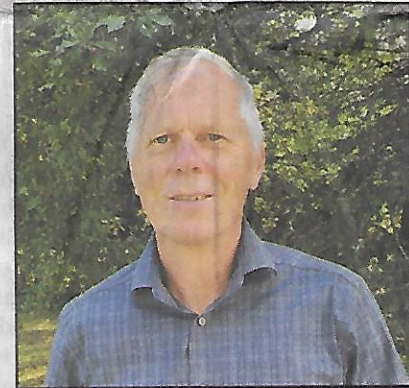


DANE NEILSEN – Being at the County table is important to the Deputy-Mayor-elect, who had his first term as a councillor in 2018-22. His plan is "making sure to convince council to step forward with Grey Gables." That means bridging the years-old divide on the issue at the county level. His message will be "it's not just what's best for Grey Highlands, it's best for Grey County."

Second, with the province pushing for housing growth, that will be another key issue. Local council can use its influence to guard against subdivision sprawl, he said – "to see that growth happens in a way that benefits Grey

Highlands and doesn't detract from Grey Highlands.

Third, he said that budget challenges loom large this term, and that will influence issues like the Recreation Master Plan and its recommendations. "That will be front and centre pretty quickly," he predicted.



PAUL ALLEN – "The budget is going to be a huge issue," said the veteran (and poll-topping) councillor, Paul Allen, especially with inflation and interest rate hikes.

Attainable housing is another, where he wants to see council continuing to make what policy changes it can to help get projects to the stage of building faster and cheaper, while also encouraging more density.

And then – "Grey Gables of course." He said the rationale used at the county to "pause" the new build was not to burden future taxpayers, but construction costs are just going up. Support for people to stay in their homes goes along with that. "To me, we have to look after our seniors."



TOM ALLWOOD – A returning councillor, he foresees challenges in the 2023 budget discussions, which will begin shortly. "I'm concerned about the budget, given the inflationary times we're dealing with," he said.

Another priority is downtown revitalization including development of municipal land in Markdale. "That's a project that's high on my list," he said.

A third top issue is what will happen on the land now owned by the Beaver Valley Development

2022-26 Council

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NADIA DUBYK – While commenting that different areas of the municipality have their own “hot topics,” this first-time council member identified safe streets as one of her top issues. “Everything from volumes to speed to traffic-calming,” she said.

Second, it’s important to do what’s possible to spur a healthy mix of new housing, she said. While there are new builds happening, too often “we are seeing that the price points are out of reach for the people who work here. That’s part and parcel of the labour shortage, she said.

A third top issue for the councillor-elect is transparency – “ensuring that we keep our citizens informed...” and that our community is involved early and often.”



JOEL LOUGHEAD – Growth and its impact on Grey Highlands will be a big issue this term, the newly-elected councillor said. The growth seen recently is “just the beginning” and council needs to see development done in a way that “improves things for everyone.”

That ties into a second priority, protecting natural resources and having more community spaces and parklands. “I’d like to see enhancements of parks in our smaller places,” he said, as well as downtown improvements.

Third, traffic-calming will not just enhance safety, but cause people to slow down and see what the local area has to offer, he said. As well, it means keeping people safe – 4-way stops, lighting.. “as much of that as can reasonably afford.”



DAN WICKENS – The first-time councillor says that everyone he talked to raised council and staff relations as an issue. “The public’s view is that there are too many staff,” he said. “I’m not saying it’s my view, but it’s the public’s view.” To him, that means improving communication so that council knows what staff are doing, and the public is always informed.

Roads are another top issue. He would like to gather information on possibly having a skeleton second shift on heavily-used roads in the winter, including what it would cost. That’s something done in neighbouring Melancthon Township, he said.

Third, he said that making more room for the public to participate in local politics is key. The new councillor called the 34 percent voter turn-out “awful.” He said he wants to hear from people on all sides of an issue. “It’s my job to represent everybody,” he said. “I want to hear both sides of the story.”

Thanks
Read.