



Fort Erie Municipal Election Candidate - Council

Protecting Ridgeway's Character While Planning for Responsible Growth

A practical development position for Ward 4

Growth should strengthen Ridgeway - not erase the qualities that make people want to live, work and invest here.

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My Position

I support responsible growth in Ridgeway, but growth must fit the community rather than force the community to fit the development.

Ridgeway can welcome new homes, new businesses and new investment while protecting the village-scale character residents value. The goal is not to freeze the community in time. The goal is to make sure new development contributes to Ridgeway instead of overwhelming existing streets, homes and public spaces.

As Fort Erie updates the planning rules that will guide future development in Ridgeway, I support clear standards that give residents, builders and landowners greater certainty about what belongs here. Good planning should be predictable, transparent and based on the real capacity of local roads, water, sewer, drainage and community services.

Five principles

1. Respect neighbourhood scale

New buildings should use height, setbacks, massing and transitions that respect the homes and streets around them.

2. Put density where it works

Higher-density development should be directed to locations where roads, services, transit potential and commercial activity can realistically support it.

3. Protect what makes Ridgeway distinct

Village character, mature trees, walkable streets, local businesses and established residential areas should be treated as community assets.

4. Infrastructure before overload

Development approvals should account for traffic, drainage, water, sewer, emergency access and other service impacts before problems are created.

5. Residents should be heard early

Public input is most useful before the final design is effectively locked in. Residents should understand what is proposed, what rules apply and how concerns will be addressed.

Bottom line: Ridgeway should grow by design, not by accident.

What I Would Support at Council

A character-based approach has to be more than a slogan. It should translate into practical planning rules and consistent decisions.

Set clear height and massing rules

Use predictable limits and step-backs so new buildings do not create abrupt walls beside established homes or overwhelm the street.

Require sensible transitions

Where more intensive development meets low-rise neighbourhoods, use setbacks, landscaping, building articulation and graduated height to reduce impacts.

Protect the pedestrian experience

Support active ground floors, attractive streetscapes, safe crossings, sidewalks and designs that make Ridgeway more walkable rather than more car-dependent.

Preserve trees and green space

Treat mature tree canopy, landscaping and usable open space as part of neighbourhood character, not as leftover space after a building is designed.

Match approvals to infrastructure capacity

Use traffic, servicing, drainage and emergency-access information to determine whether a proposal can be supported now or whether upgrades are needed first.

Manage parking and traffic realistically

Avoid pretending parking demand disappears because a site is intensified. Require practical access, circulation and parking solutions appropriate to the location.

Encourage compatible housing choices

Support townhouses, apartments, secondary units and other housing types where they can be integrated with good design and appropriate scale.

Focus larger intensification strategically

Concentrate the biggest increases in density in the locations best equipped to absorb them, while keeping established residential areas compatible with their existing context.

A Simple Test for Future Development

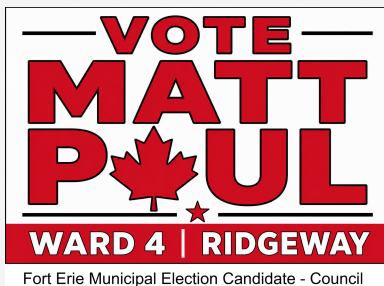
When a major development proposal comes before Council, I believe residents should be able to understand the decision using a straightforward set of questions.

Question	What I would look for
Does it fit the street?	Height, setbacks, building mass and design should respond to the surrounding context.
Can local infrastructure handle it?	Roads, water, sewer, drainage and emergency access must be considered before approval.
Does it improve the public realm?	The project should contribute to sidewalks, landscaping, streetscape quality and pedestrian safety.
Are neighbouring properties protected?	Transitions, privacy, shadowing, traffic and construction impacts should be addressed.
Is the density in the right place?	More density makes sense where services and transportation can support it.
Were residents meaningfully informed?	Public participation should happen early enough to influence the outcome.
What does Ridgeway gain?	A good project should add housing, investment or amenities without sacrificing the community assets that already exist.

My commitment to Ridgeway

I will support growth that is thoughtful, compatible and financially responsible. I will push for planning rules that are clear enough for builders to understand and strong enough for residents to trust. I will support new housing and economic opportunity while defending the scale, streetscape and neighbourhood qualities that give Ridgeway its identity.

The choice is not between growth and character. With better planning, Ridgeway can have both.



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Prepared as a public position paper for Ward 4 residents.