
Open House May 5, 2025

From [REDACTED]
Date Sat 2025-04-19 8:00 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

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Hello Devon,

I have been informed there will be an Open House on May 5 regarding the application for zoning and by-law amendments to permit the development of a 10 story building between Terrace Lane and Crystal Beach Drive in Crystal Beach. I have been unable to find any information about this on the Town of Fort Erie website.

Please help direct me.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Crystal Beach development

From [REDACTED]

Date Mon 2025-04-21 11:54 AM

To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

Cc Tom Lewis <TLewis@forterie.ca>

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A 10 storey apartment building on Crystal Beach Drive is a nightmare waiting to happen. I get it that the Town needs housing but not expensive luxury housing. We need affordable housing especially for young families and seniors, I don't understand why the old Crystal Beach Public School land on Rebstock and Derby has remained undeveloped for 10 years. It's right across from another apartment building and beside the co-op, all the utility connections are there and it's big enough to accommodate 100 units that don't need to be stacked 10 stories high, plus parking. Maybe the Town should expropriate it.

[REDACTED]

Application for Strategic Plan Amendment in Crystal Beach

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 2025-04-21 2:29 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

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Mr. Morton

I am writing to let you know I strenuously oppose this application for a ten story apartment building or any amendment that would permit such a building to be built in this area. Traffic control, flooding issues, too great a density for the area, would be just a start of the problems this kind of development would create. I will attend the meeting on Monday May 5th and would ask to speak to address this proposal.



Application for Amendments to the Official Plan for Crystal Beach on Crystal Beach Drive to Terrace Lane

From [REDACTED]
Date Tue 2025-04-22 10:02 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

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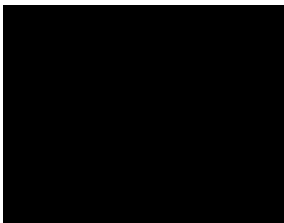
External Email Warning: Do not click on any attachment or links/URL in this email unless the sender is reliable.

Mr Morton,

Would you please send me the Application for the amendment and all relevant documentation that has been considered prior to initiating the public meeting scheduled for May 5, 2025.

Please send this in digital format or let me know when I can pick up the documents at your office. I would like to fully understand the proposal.

Thank for your attention to this,



Crystal Beach Rezoning Concerns

From [REDACTED]
Date Tue 2025-04-22 2:35 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

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Dear Mr. Morton,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed land use amendment that seeks to rezone a property on Crystal Beach Drive from Urban Residential to Core Mixed-Use, facilitating the construction of a 10-storey, 100-unit apartment building.

The intersection of Crystal Beach Drive and Terrace Lane is already a complex and challenging area to navigate. This small intersection, surrounded by one-way streets, poses difficulties for both residents and visitors, particularly those unfamiliar with the area. After events like the Summer Sunday Concert Series or Thursday Food Truck nights during the summer, Lake Avenue is often closed, which further complicates traffic flow. Paired with the very narrow one-way portion of Terrace Lane, which leads to a merge onto Crystal Beach Drive, this area is already unsafe and difficult to navigate. The addition of over 100 new residents would significantly increase traffic volume, exacerbating congestion, and creating even more hazardous conditions for both pedestrians and drivers.

Furthermore, the proximity of this intersection to the Crystal Beach Waterfront Park and the seasonal influx of visitors to the area compound these concerns. The increased foot and vehicle traffic during peak seasons would place additional strain on an already overburdened infrastructure, compromising safety and accessibility.

I also want to emphasize that I am not opposed to introducing more housing projects to the area. The need for additional housing is clear. However, this location is simply not suitable for such a large-scale development. One of my primary concerns is this development affordable housing or have an allotment of affordable housing units or will it be luxury apartments like the Palmwood? I am concerned that this project will not address the affordability needs of the current residents. If the proposed apartments are not affordable or geared towards local income levels, this project could lead to the gentrification of the area, pricing out longtime residents and changing the character of Crystal Beach that makes it so unique.

Additionally, the construction of a 10-storey building in this location would drastically impact the skyline and obstruct access to sunlight for nearby homes and cottages. This would create an aesthetic mismatch with the surrounding low-rise community and could forever change the "feel" of the area. Agreeing to this project would set a dangerous precedent, signaling that the needs of current

residents are secondary to outside development interests, and that the charm of our small town is not being protected.

Another concern I must raise is the impact this development could have on local wildlife, particularly species at risk, such as the Fowler's Toad. I have personally seen and heard Fowler's Toad in the area, and it is crucial that we take this into consideration before moving forward with any development. While I understand that the Town of Fort Erie may be tired of hearing about Fowler's Toad, we are living in a time when the Endangered Species Act is being altered in ways that may jeopardize species at risk in favor of development. It is more important than ever that we hold ourselves to a higher standard when it comes to protecting our local ecosystems. We must carefully evaluate the environmental consequences of this project before making any decisions that could harm our wildlife.

This development seems misaligned with the goals outlined in the Crystal Beach Secondary Plan, which emphasizes maintaining the community's character while promoting sustainable growth. The proposed high-rise structure would disrupt the established identity of the area and negatively impact the quality of life for its current residents.

I urge the Town of Fort Erie to reconsider this proposal and prioritize developments that align with the needs of the community and the character of Crystal Beach. I look forward to participating in the upcoming open house and contributing to a constructive dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Condo

From [REDACTED]
Date Fri 2025-04-25 8:11 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I'm totally against the ten story condo in Crystal Beach
Regards
[REDACTED]

3856 Terrace Lane & Unassigned Parcel 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive Fort Erie

From [REDACTED]
Date Sat 2025-04-26 10:24 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

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External Email Warning: Do not click on any attachment or links/URL in this email unless the sender is reliable.

Good Morning Devon. [REDACTED] and I own a property at [REDACTED] My family has owned summer homes in this area since 1913 so we are deeply ingrained into this section of Crystal Beach.

The purpose of this email is to express our strong opposition to the proposed zoning change of the above referenced parcels from Residential 2B (R2B) and Hazard (H) to Residential (RM1) as proposed for a 10 storey apartment building for multiple reasons:

1. Neighbourhood Aesthetics – This is a long established neighbourhood of 1-2 storey homes. The one exception is the newly built Palmwood condominium which was built on land that had previously been zoned appropriate for its development. Building a 10 storey apartment building in the back yards of people who have lived in in this area for decades would be an slap in their face. Note that there are currently zero buildings nearly this high in the Crystal Beach area. There is no need for one now.
2. Traffic – This is a quaint area of Fort Erie with narrow residential streets. Adding 100 apartments would significantly add to the traffic in this area that is simply not designed for it.
3. Parking – This parcel on it's own would hardly be able to accommodate the cars of people that lived in 100 apartments – where would approximately 100-200 vehicles of new residents park?

Certainly, I am in favor of developing these parcels in a responsible manner that is consistent with the flavor of the existing neighbourhood. The Crystal Beach Secondary Plan does point out that there is an opportunity to develop these parcels in a more responsible way than this proposal. I don'y think it's unreasonable to develop the land in a manner that is **consistent with what is cited in the secondary plan (specifically bullet d that restricts the height of the buildings to 3 storeys (12m):**

4.22.9.14 Multiple Parcels between Crystal Beach Drive and Terrace Lane (3856, 0-15084, 0-15085 & 0-15086 Terrace Lane and 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive).

These lands represent a unique opportunity to provide additional multi-unit residential that can take advantage of waterfront views and amenity of Crystal Beach Waterfront Park.

- a) The site shall be reserved for semi-detached, street townhouses, block townhouses, stacked townhouses, apartment units and their accessory uses, and shall generally be governed by the Residential policies of Section 4.7 unless otherwise defined under this section.
- b) A Medium Density range of 25 to 50 units per hectare will assist in making efficient use of existing and proposed infrastructure and providing opportunities to diversify medium density housing stock and form. Densities may be reduced or restricted in the implementing zoning by-law.

c) Land assembly is encouraged to enable a comprehensive development plan for lands identified in this policy.

d) The following height restrictions shall apply: semi-detached dwellings up to a max 3 storeys, street townhouses dwellings up to a max of 3 storeys, block townhouses up to a max of 3 storeys, stacked townhouses up to a max of 3 storeys and apartments up to a max of 3 storeys.

e) Site access for resident parking should only occur from Crystal Beach Drive with a consolidated land assembly and development proposal.

f) Sensitive architectural designs shall be deployed such as terraced building form reflecting slopes on site.

g) These lots are in proximity to the Regional Waste Treatment Plant and new development will need to consider compatibility requirements from a noise, air quality and odour perspective.

h) Existing Environmental Protection designation (Hazard zoning) at the southerly limit of the designated lands may form limits of development / setbacks in the implementing zoning.

Please keep me informed as to the progression of this application. Thank you.



Re: 3856 Terrace Lane and Unassigned Parcel 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive, Fort Erie

From [REDACTED]
Date Sun 2025-04-27 5:54 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>
Cc [REDACTED]

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Mr. Morton

As residents of this area, we have the following comments on the proposed 10 story building:

1. It is our understanding that major waterfront developments are off limits in the town of Fort Erie for one year, possibly two, including in this particular area. How does a 10 storey building possibly fit into the waterfront plan for Crystal Beach? What is the plan for Crystal Beach, another Niagara Falls skyline?
2. The adjacent laneways of Lake Street, Terrace Lane and Crystal Beach Drive can barely accommodate existing traffic, especially in the summer months. The area is congested and navigating by car is difficult year round. A 100 unit building with potentially 150-200 more vehicles in the area is not sustainable or practical. As it is, there are currently no sidewalks or verges for walkers and it doesn't appear there is room for sidewalks on these laneways.
3. In the immediate area there are two entranceways to/from the municipal water/sewage plant with accompanying industrial traffic, thereby adding to the congestion.
4. There are two entrances to/from Waterfront Park and a very popular boat launch. Pickup trucks with boats and trailers navigate these laneways year round with great difficulty. It is a congested and busy area. Waterfront Park is there for the enjoyment of tourists and all local residents. Anything that impedes the entrance and enjoyment of the Waterfront Park should not be considered.
5. What engineering studies have been done to determine that the sand or rock base is suitable for this type of development? How will this impact flood control for the adjacent areas and the sewage plant?

We plan on attending the town meeting on May 5 to learn more about this development, but we want to register our strong objection to this development.

[REDACTED]

10 storey building proposal Crystal Beach Drive

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 2025-04-28 11:25 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

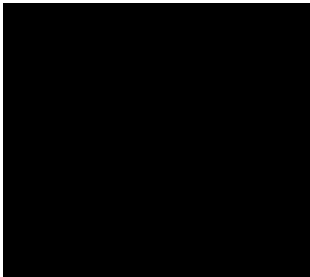
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I am a resident of Crystal Beach.

I will be out of town on May 5 and therefore unable to attend the town meeting.

Both my husband and I would be present to vote against this destructive building proposal. Responsible development is necessary for this municipality and this proposal is the opposite of responsible or safe.

Please respond to acknowledge this complaint has been received.



Re: 3856 Terrace Lane & Unassigned Parcel 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive Fort Erie

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 2025-04-28 8:53 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Warning: Do not click on any attachment or links/URL in this email unless the sender is reliable.

Thanks for the quick reply. I would also like to bring attention to the fact that zone RM1 limits building heights to three stories. It's implausible to even imagine approving anything higher than that, let alone ten stories.

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From: Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 8:47:59 AM
To [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: 3856 Terrace Lane & Unassigned Parcel 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive Fort Erie

Thank you, [REDACTED] for your comments, they have been noted and will be included in the staff report to Council.

One point of clarity I may offer is that the Crystal Beach Secondary Plan (CBSP) is not in force and effect as it relates to the subject lands due to an ongoing appeal ([please refer to page 38 of the CBSP](#)).

Thank you,

Devon M. Morton, MCIP, RPP
Supervisor of Development Approvals

Town of Fort Erie
Planning, Building and By-law Services
1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S6
p: 905-871-1600 ext. 2514

forterie.ca | dmorton@forterie.ca



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, April 26, 2025 10:23 AM

To: Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

Subject: 3856 Terrace Lane & Unassigned Parcel 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive Fort Erie

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Warning: Do not click on any attachment or links/URL in this email unless the sender is reliable.

Good Morning Devon. My wife, [REDACTED] and I own a property at 3727 Crystal Beach Drive. My family has owned summer homes in this area since 1913 so we are deeply ingrained into this section of Crystal Beach.

The purpose of this email is to express our strong opposition to the proposed zoning change of the above referenced parcels from Residential 2B (R2B) and Hazard (H) to Residential (RM1) as proposed for a 10 storey apartment building for multiple reasons:

1. Neighbourhood Aesthetics – This is a long established neighbourhood of 1-2 storey homes. The one exception is the newly built Palmwood condominium which was built on land that had previously been zoned appropriate for its development. Building a 10 storey apartment building in the back yards of people who have lived in in this area for decades would be an slap in their face. Note that there are currently zero buildings nearly this high in the Crystal Beach area. There is no need for one now.
2. Traffic – This is a quaint area of Fort Erie with narrow residential streets. Adding 100 apartments would significantly add to the traffic in this area that is simply not designed for it.
3. Parking – This parcel on it's own would hardly be able to accommodate the cars of people that lived in 100 apartments – where would approximately 100-200 vehicles of new residents park?

Certainly, I am in favor of developing these parcels in a responsible manner that is consistent with the flavor of the existing neighbourhood. The Crystal Beach Secondary Plan does point out that there is an opportunity to develop these parcels in a more responsible way than this proposal. I don't think it's unreasonable to develop the land in a manner that is **consistent with what is cited in the secondary plan (specifically bullet d that restricts the height of the buildings to 3 storeys (12m):**

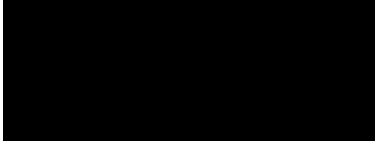
4.22.9.14 Multiple Parcels between Crystal Beach Drive and Terrace Lane (3856, 0-15084, 0-15085 & 0-15086 Terrace Lane and 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive).

These lands represent a unique opportunity to provide additional multi-unit residential that can take advantage of waterfront views and amenity of Crystal Beach Waterfront Park.

- a) The site shall be reserved for semi-detached, street townhouses, block townhouses, stacked townhouses, apartment units and their accessory uses, and shall generally be governed by the Residential policies of Section 4.7 unless otherwise defined under this section.
- b) A Medium Density range of 25 to 50 units per hectare will assist in making efficient use of existing and proposed infrastructure and providing opportunities to diversify medium density housing stock and form. Densities may be reduced or restricted in the implementing zoning by-law.
- c) Land assembly is encouraged to enable a comprehensive development plan for lands identified in this policy.
- d) The following height restrictions shall apply: semi-detached dwellings up to a max 3 storeys, street townhouses dwellings up to a max of 3 storeys, block townhouses up to a max of 3 storeys, stacked townhouses up to a max of 3 storeys and apartments up to a max of 3 storeys.**

- e) Site access for resident parking should only occur from Crystal Beach Drive with a consolidated land assembly and development proposal.
- f) Sensitive architectural designs shall be deployed such as terraced building form reflecting slopes on site.
- g) These lots are in proximity to the Regional Waste Treatment Plant and new development will need to consider compatibility requirements from a noise, air quality and odour perspective.
- h) Existing Environmental Protection designation (Hazard zoning) at the southerly limit of the designated lands may form limits of development / setbacks in the implementing zoning.

Please keep me informed as to the progression of this application. Thank you.



3856 Terrace Lane Crystal Beach

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 2025-04-28 6:51 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>
Cc [REDACTED]

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Dear Devon,

I hope all is well.

This email is in reference to the application for zone change to 3856 Terrace Lane.

As a full time resident on [REDACTED] the thought of adding 100 unit complex to the neighborhood is difficult to comprehend. We strongly appose the application of rezoning the area for a large building.

The traffic on Ridgeway Road needs to slow down and should have noise restraints on some vehicles and motorcycles. Opening the zoning for 100 units will definitely increase volume, both number of vehicles and noise.

The area already has many occupancies. A lot of homes, condos and cottages are vacant. We recommend making use of existing infrastructures and buildings before approving the change of zone.

We plan on attending the Fort Erie Open House on May 5.


Please keep us posted and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you very much

[REDACTED]

Re: File Number(s): ZBA-17-2024, OPA-08-2024 (3856 Terrace Lane, Fort Erie & Unassigned Parcel 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive, Fort Erie)

From [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2025-04-30 11:04 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

 2 attachments (2 MB)
Street Blocked Overnight.JPEG; Street Storage.JPEG;

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Dear Devon Morton,

Re: File Number(s): ZBA-17-2024, OPA-08-2024 (3856 Terrace Lane, Fort Erie & Unassigned Parcel 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive, Fort Erie)

We are writing to submit our comments for the Monday, May 5, 2025 (5-6pm) meeting regarding the rezoning of the subject lands and site-specific provisions referenced above.

We are **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to this rezoning and related requests. A 10-storey apartment building and density of units as described DOES NOT belong in this community!

We are lifelong summer residents of this community for 60+ years, and have been property owners [REDACTED]. We continue to enjoy the quite and smaller character of the Crystal Beach community. We have many Canadian friends in the neighborhood who strongly feel the same way. Many have moved from high-rise and densely populated areas like Toronto and the "Golden Horseshoe" to escape the very type of developments being proposed here. Crystal Beach is NOT the place for such a 10-story apartment building.

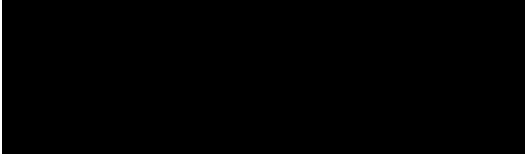
The density, lack of any reasonable setback and public & residents' outdoor space makes such a development especially abhorrent to the character and livability of our community. It also introduces numerous construction issues and code violations due to the lack of on-property space for construction and materials staging. A perfect example is the construction fiasco currently occurring just around the corner on Lake Avenue. At that site, construction crews have stored and staged materials and equipment off the property, at times blocking streets even overnight. They have trespassed and used other properties, as well as the public streets, for their materials and equipment - blocking traffic and public access in the process. In at least one instance they caused a serious vehicle accident due to the storage of construction materials on a town street, requiring law enforcement and residents to clean up their mess. I have attached pictures of these abuses of town and private property. There has also been continuous littering

and trash left, often wind-blown throughout the neighborhood (as was the case for years throughout construction of the vacant Palmwood high-rise.)

In addition, the waterfront park and especially the boat ramp already produce an overwhelming amount of traffic - much of it with boat trailers - on Terrace Lane, Lake Avenue and Crystal Beach Drive. Adding a 10-story apartment building in the middle of this would produce an unmanageable traffic situation on top of an already unbearable one, especially in spring/summer/fall with much boat/trailer traffic and numerous waterfront park events.

Please **DO NOT APPROVE** this outrageous and inappropriate proposal!

I also request to be notified of any decisions of Council on this proposed Application.



Terrace Lane development

From [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2025-05-28 3:10 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

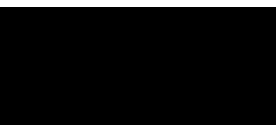
You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Mr Morton

Following are my views on the housing complex planned between Crystal Beach Drive and Terrace Lane. It is totally not appropriate for the area. (The perfect spot could be at corner of ridgeway rd and rebstock).

I have lived at [REDACTED]. This area is very busy with traffic being up the street from the boat launch, park and new Palmwood building which remains uninhabited to date. Why do you think these units will b better? This is already a very busy visiting tourist area. There is minimum parking. Cars race up and down these streets. It is sometimes very dangerous for passerby's. I came close to getting hit a couple of times by a speeding car racing around the corner.

What ever happened to small-town charm in Crystal Beach? Why not do a smaller project that would fit better with this particular community and stop trying to make it be a big city look?



Sent from my iPhone

10 story condo in Crystal Beach

From [REDACTED]
Date Tue 2025-05-27 11:44 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

While I'm fairly certain that this will not even be read, I feel I must at least try. I live on [REDACTED] in the beach and have paid property taxes to the Town of Fort Erie for the past 40 years. The residents do not want this development. We chose to live here because of the cottage style homes and small town feel. I am not against development. I think the town's plan is great and I can't understand why you are not following it. Why do developers want to override the wants of the current property owners? Please reconsider the location of this project and honour the planning bylaws.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

10 floor condo on Crystal Beach Drive

From [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2025-05-14 7:47 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

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Good morning, just my thoughts

- 10 stories will stick out like a sore thumb amongst all the homes and cottages.
- nobody surrounding this condo will have the feeling of privacy in their homes or yards
- this many more people living here will definitely take away from the peaceful nature of this area and will likely lower property values
- there is no public transit so everyone would need cars. That's a lot of extra cars on these small peaceful streets



A note to say thanks

From [REDACTED]
Date Tue 2025-05-06 8:11 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

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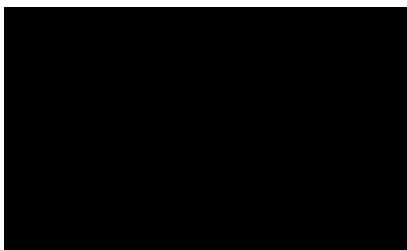
Devon

I just wanted to say thank you for your professionalism in the application brought forward by Mr. Pompili. Thanks for giving the area notice, and for holding the information session. Mr. Pompili certainly got feedback from neighbours and locals about how they feel about his proposed build. I appreciate your work on this and I am glad you are here and working on this.

I wasn't able to ask questions as louder voices prevailed, but I did learn that Mr. Pompili considers grade level to be the top of the dune and he intends to build seven stories above grade which would make this a very tall building indeed. I worry that it would set a precedent for future condo towers along the lake as lots become available. I know you are familiar with the growth in Burlington along the lake. This future for Crystal Beach concerns me. I have called this place "the place that time forgot" and was so happy that Toronto hadn't found it yet. But now they have.

My hope is that the height and density amendment will not be allowed and he will decide not to develop the lot but he seems pretty keen to do so.

At any rate, thank you for your competence and attention to detail. We will do what we can.



Open House May 5, 5 to 6

From [REDACTED]
Date Fri 2025-05-02 10:07 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

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I just received the Notice of Application and Open house for 3856 Terrace Lane File # ZBA-17-2024, opa-08-2024.

I wish to be on record that I object to the size and scope of this project on the above stated land,
[REDACTED]

Please forward this email to Devon Morton so that I can be added to the mailing list to continue to receive notifications on the progress of this application.

P.S. I am not sure if I will be able to attend the Open House on May 5, but would like to know the outcome.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Note.....duplicate submission.
Please acknowledge receipt of this email

Regarding proposed 10 story building - Meeting May 5th

From [REDACTED]
Date Thu 2025-05-01 2:20 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Warning: Do not click on any attachment or links/URL in this email unless the sender is reliable.

Re: Opposition to Land Use Redesignation from Urban Residential and Environmental Protection to Core Mixed Use – Crystal Beach

I am writing as a concerned resident of Crystal Beach regarding the proposed land use change from *Urban Residential and Environmental Protection* to *Core Mixed Use* in our community. I strongly oppose this redesignation and urge the Town of Fort Erie to maintain the existing protections and zoning designations. Below, I outline key reasons for this position.

1. Environmental Protection and Ecological Integrity

The areas currently designated for *Environmental Protection* serve as critical ecosystems that support local biodiversity, manage stormwater runoff, and buffer our shoreline against erosion and flooding. Altering these lands risks:

- Irreversible destruction of habitat for native species.
- Increased runoff and pollution into Lake Erie and its tributaries.
- Reduced climate resilience in the face of more frequent extreme weather events.

Preserving these lands is vital to the environmental health and sustainability of Crystal Beach.

2. Preservation of Community Character and Livability

Crystal Beach has a unique character grounded in its small-town, residential charm. A shift toward *Core Mixed Use* would:

- Invite denser, commercial-style development that is out of scale with surrounding neighborhoods.
- Increase traffic congestion, noise, and parking shortages.
- Place additional strain on local infrastructure, including water, sewer, and emergency services.

Such changes could degrade the quality of life for long-term residents and erode the community's identity.

3. Public Consultation and Procedural Concerns

There is concern that meaningful public consultation has not been fully undertaken regarding this proposed change. Any shift in land use, especially involving sensitive environmental lands, should:

- Be informed by transparent and inclusive community engagement.
- Align with the Town's Official Plan and Niagara Region's long-term growth strategies.
- Avoid setting precedents for future incursions into protected or low-density areas.

4. Planning Principles and Long-Term Vision

Sound urban planning promotes *intensification* where existing services and infrastructure are sufficient—not in environmentally sensitive or low-density residential areas. The proposed redesignation:

- Contradicts smart growth principles.
- Risks overdevelopment and underused commercial space.
- Could encourage gentrification, displacing current residents.

The decision to preserve existing *Urban Residential* and *Environmental Protection* designations is essential for the long-term well-being of Crystal Beach. I respectfully request that the Town reject the proposal to redesignate these lands to *Core Mixed Use* and instead prioritize sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and community values.

In addition, the proposed 10 story building, building which is in a primarily low-rise, residential area will significantly violate privacy of residents in the following ways:

1. Direct Line of Sight into Private Spaces

- **Upper floors overlook:** Residents on higher floors of a 10-storey building will have unobstructed views into nearby yards, decks, gardens, and balconies — areas traditionally considered private in a low-rise neighborhood.
- **Loss of visual screening:** Trees, fences, or landscaping that once offered privacy are no longer effective against vertical sightlines from that height.

2. Feeling of Being Constantly Watched

- Even if people aren't actively looking, the perception of many windows facing your property can create a feeling of exposure or discomfort, especially during leisure activities in your yard or on your balcony.

3. Nighttime Privacy Invasion

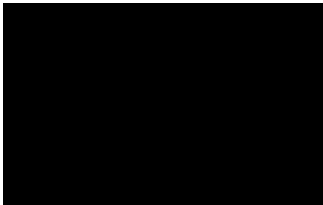
- **Light pollution:** At night, interior lights from dozens of windows at higher elevations can feel intrusive or even illuminate your yard or home, especially if curtains or blinds aren't drawn.
- **Binocular effect:** Even accidental glances from higher floors can feel invasive when someone is seated or relaxing in an otherwise private outdoor space.

4. Loss of Enjoyment of Outdoor Spaces

- Residents may begin avoiding their balconies, patios, or yards altogether due to feeling "on display," which reduces quality of life and the usability of your property.

Please do not approve this monstrosity. It will ruin the area, in more ways than one.

Sincerely,



Re: 10 story apartment building Crystal Beach

From [REDACTED]
Date Thu 2025-05-01 10:42 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Warning: Do not click on any attachment or links/URL in this email unless the sender is reliable.

I will definitely try, for sure, but, health wise I'm not as sure. [REDACTED] I'm the [REDACTED] Thank you very much for the quick response and it gladdens me you'll bring it up at the meeting if I can't be present. As you can tell, it IS important to me! (And all the neighbourhood!)

On May 1, 2025, at 10:32 AM, Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and comments, these will be included in the Staff Report to Council.

I encourage you to attend the Open House on May 5, 2025 (5-6PM in the Atrium at Town Hall).

Thank you,

Devon M. Morton, MCIP, RPP
Supervisor of Development Approvals

Town of Fort Erie
Planning, Building and By-law Services
1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S6
p: 905-871-1600 ext. 2514

forterie.ca | dmorton@forterie.ca

[<Outlook-4kanhorw.png>](#) [<Outlook-ei5a4c2o.png>](#) [<Outlook-tbs2x2pj.png>](#) [<Outlook-2wseimym.png>](#) [<Outlook-2jkrdzgp.png>](#)
[<Outlook-qs3vaxux.png>](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 10:18 AM
To: Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>
Subject: 10 story apartment building Crystal Beach

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

External Email Warning: Do not click on any attachment or links/URL in this email unless the sender is reliable.

Mr Morton, hi. I am [REDACTED] and live on the property [REDACTED] I've lived here for [REDACTED]
I am extremely worried about damage that will occur to both my home and garage if this gets the go ahead!
The amount of sand that will be removed will definitely cause my poured concrete large patio to break and collapse, as will the decorative block entrance and exit to and from the patio, and my front yard small retaining wall and lilac bushes!
I have a large basement of poured concrete floor and block walls. Blasting will, of course, cause them to break and probably collapse my foundation of the house, making out uninhabitable! Before any of that occurs, I would definitely need a retaining wall constructed by the owners of the proposal to save my patio, home and front yard from the sand removal.

My separated from the house 2 car length garage is built into the ground by about 4 1/2 ft height block wall, poured concrete floor and would also likely be destroyed by the imminent blasting that would have to be done during the proposed building beside me.

There is no reason for such a large apt to be constructed in this area, as it's all single family homes, in large part owned for decades by the residents of the area.

Besides all of that, 100 units in a 10 story building would need a vast amount of parking just for the renters of the units! These are extremely narrow streets, and there would be mayhem in the winter and summer. The Waterfront Park already has problems parking for the many events scheduled during the spring, summer and fall, whereas I often find it hard to park in my own driveway!

I don't want to seem like a NIMBY, as I am wide open to buildings that are close to the same building sizes as are already around here, and there's lots of land present for just that. But, this behemoth of a project would certainly be overkill, and definitely take away the ambience of it.

Could you please reply about my concern and bring it up at the May 5 meeting? Thank you very much for reading this. If you would like to call me: [REDACTED] Thank you again.

10 story apartment building Crystal Beach

From [REDACTED]
Date Thu 2025-05-01 10:18 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

External Email Warning: Do not click on any attachment or links/URL in this email unless the sender is reliable.

Mr Morton, hi. I am [REDACTED] and live on the property [REDACTED] I've lived here for 38 years.

I am extremely worried about damage that will occur to both my home and garage if this gets the go ahead!

The amount of sand that will be removed will definitely cause my poured concrete large patio to break and collapse, as will the decorative block entrance and exit to and from the patio, and my front yard small retaining wall and lilac bushes!

I have a large basement of poured concrete floor and block walls. Blasting will, of course, cause them to break and probably collapse my foundation of the house, making out uninhabitable! Before any of that occurs, I would definitely need a retaining wall constructed by the owners of the proposal to save my patio, home and front yard from the sand removal.

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Could you please reply about my concern and bring it up at the May 5 meeting? Thank you very much for reading this. If you would like to call me: [REDACTED] Thank you again.

Crystal Beach - 10-Story Building

From [REDACTED]
Date Sun 2025-06-01 7:49 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Devon Morton,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing as a concerned resident [REDACTED] to express my strong opposition to the proposed 100-unit 10-story building development on Crystal Beach Drive.

While I understand the need for thoughtful growth in our community, this particular project raises serious concerns in terms of its location and its scale. Placing a high-rise next to a water treatment facility and a public beach that struggles annually with algae and water quality issues seems not only ill-advised but also incompatible with the character and infrastructure of our neighbourhood. It's also unfair to the existing homeowners nearby who would be forced to live in the shadow of this building (myself included!).

A development of this size and height would drastically alter the scale of the beach area and public spaces, increase traffic and strain on local services, and erode the charm that makes Crystal Beach special. It feels out of step with the area's needs and with what residents actually value about living here.

Moreover, projects need to respect the spirit of the local area. Crystal Beach is a beautiful and charming village, and it's important to preserve its appeal in order to continue attracting tourism, and for the health and wellbeing of its residents.

I urge you to advocate for more sustainable, community-focused planning decisions.

Lastly, I think that we need to demand that developers compensate the area with additional green spaces, parking, and infrastructure to offset the impact of any large projects like this in the future.

Thank you for your time and service to our town.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]

Re: File Number(s): ZBA-17-2024, OPA-08-2024 (3856 Terrace Lane & Unassigned Parcel 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive, Fort Erie)

From [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2025-06-04 10:00 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Re: **File Number(s): ZBA-17-2024, OPA-08-2024 (3856 Terrace Lane & Unassigned Parcel 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive, Fort Erie)**

Dear Mr. Morton,

On April 30 we previously submitted comments in opposition to this development, which are still valid and we would appreciate those being provided to Council.

After attending the May 5 open house, after meeting with the developer and discussing his plans, and after reviewing all related materials available we continue to be **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to this development. We wish to submit these additional comments to Council for the June 9, 2025 Public Meeting.

There are many concerns we have with this 10-storey building, including:

- It seriously deviates from the town's Official Plan and Secondary Plan for Crystal Beach, which have been put in place after considerable research, expense, compromise and agreement for all future development in Crystal Beach. The requested variances from those plans are not minor, but *extreme* - thereby invalidating all the hard work previously completed to guide the future progress of the town.
- The proposed building does not add to the character and livability of the community, but instead takes away from it. Many residents who recently relocated to Crystal Beach did so to get away from this type of high-density, higher than 3-storey structure. Together with other long term property owners ([REDACTED]) and recent arrivals we all welcome progress and development, but not this type of outrageously oversized structure that simply does not fit.
- The building has about 1 parking spot provided for each unit. Most households have more than 1 vehicle and some have 3, 4 or more. Adequate resident parking is not provided in this proposal, nor is parking for guests. Instead it is being ignored in favor of density. There will also be heavy daily traffic to 100 units from Amazon/UPS/Instacart/etc. as well as Internet Service Providers, Cable and other service providers. It's foolish to ignore this additional heavy traffic flow, *in addition* to the 100 units' residents and guests.
- Has the Fire Chief / Marshall approved such a large structure? There already is a lot of discussion about street closures and traffic flow *just for Food Truck Thursdays* at the Waterfront Park; how can we possibly handle the additional load of 100 new residential units also crammed in? Does Crystal Beach even have fire trucks that can reach 10

storeys? It appears this proposal does not address public and resident safety, as well as the safety of first responders, and instead favors density.

- The surrounding 4 streets are not adequate for this high density structure. They are barely 1 or 1-1/2 lanes, and one of them is one-way over a large, narrow hill. There is already a large volume of traffic, especially during Spring/Summer/Fall with a lot of very large boat trailer traffic to/from the Waterfront Park Boat Launch. Summer events add even more volume. There also is not enough space available that could be used to enlarge/improve the inadequate street infrastructure. So this large, high density building will be landlocked within an inadequate street infrastructure which is already overstressed, and with no way to improve it.

We strongly urge Council to **REJECT** this application. We look forward instead to proposals that conform to the town's Official Plan and Secondary Plan for Crystal Beach.

Please keep us advised of all future actions and decisions regarding this application.

Thank you for allowing us to share our concerns in the interest of a better future for Fort Erie and Crystal Beach.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MAILING ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3856 Terrace Lane.

From [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2025-06-04 7:20 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

Hello Devon.

I am writing you today to voice my concern with regards to the proposed 100-unit hotel/condo/apartment, just down the street.

The impact of such a huge property will be a negative one, with many concerns we as neighbours share.

The environmental impact is obvious.

Removing a large dune, which is our first line of defense against storms, wind and rain, will have consequences for us all who live adjacent to the dune. As we're all aware, it can be nasty in the winter. We have personally felt the wall that dune creates during a storm and thus the protection it gives and the water it absorbs when we have torrential downpours.

Then there's the congestion, traffic in the area that's already not well managed, especially when there are events at the waterfront.

Parking during those events is already a problem as driveways are getting blocked and people are parking just about anywhere and that is not even on a daily basis. There are simply too many safety concerns with entry and exit points of the proposed building on Crystal Beach Dr. Crystal Beach Dr is at most a 1.5 lane with odd turns and corners with not enough visibility. Houses are built very close to the roads so widening is not an option here.

Then there are personal impacts for those closest to this development such as:

1. The plummeting of property values for those who are next to or across the street. These properties may not even be saleable and worthless as no one will want to live there as is the case with the home for sale immediately next to the Palmwood.
2. The light pollution of a building lit up day and night.
3. Noise pollution of a pool built on the exterior and folks on their balconies.
4. The overflow of garbage they say is being managed, which remains to be seen.
5. The loss of privacy in their own backyards and in some cases their homes too.

It just amazes me that there simply doesn't seem to be any consideration for the people that are directly impacted as well as indirectly.

The construction zone we're all going to be forced to endure for years is also not even spoken about, the noise, the congestion on a day-to-day basis of the additional vehicles, the additional infra structure problems this will bring with it as our street population will literally triple.

Many of the answers to these concerns will not be known until after, when it's too late to turn back the clock.

The song by Joni Mitchell's, Big Yellow Taxi, seems incredibly appropriate here: Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone, pave paradise, put up a parking lot!!!

I'm not anti-development but the scale, size, density and design seem so wrong in so many ways, in this particular location. My sincerest hope is that this project will not go forward or gets modified, keeping the atmosphere in CB in mind and that something more appropriate for the

area, in scale and size, design and height would be considered instead of what is currently on the table.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

With kindest regards,

[REDACTED]

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June 4, 2025

Devon M. Morton
Supervisor of Development Approvals
Planning, Building and Bylaw Services
1 Municipal Centre Drive
Fort Erie, ON, L2A 2S6

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mr. Morton

I am a resident on [REDACTED] and have become familiar with a proposed development at 3856 Crystal Beach Drive which has precipitated a request for amendment of the Crystal Beach Secondary Plan for both height and density.

This request has generated considerable concern for a great number of people in Crystal Beach and huge concern for residents who would be directly impacted by such a development. All the residents of Crystal Beach would be directly impacted by reducing access to and enjoyment of the Waterfront Park and adjacent areas. The neighbours surrounding the development would be hugely impacted with their properties potentially damaged, their property values reduced, shaded, and increased noise and traffic.

My concerns are as follows:

- The proposal does not adhere to either the Official Plan or the Secondary Plan for Crystal Beach and would vastly differ from the plan in height, density, and lot coverage.
- The construction of such a building would require extensive retaining walls to protect the property of neighbours abutting the property and would risk damage to their properties.
- The developer is proposing building seven stories from the top of the dune which is not in keeping with the waterfront area of Crystal Beach.
- Blasting was used in the construction of the Palmwood and was extremely disruptive to the community. It was also very difficult because underground streams exist in this area which complicate such large construction projects. We would not want blasting to be used again.
- The proposal does not take into account an accurate traffic estimate and would significantly increase traffic on the local streets in proximity to the structure. These streets are already incredibly busy, as Lake Street and the Millington Skyway (Ridgeway Road) are the only points of access to the Waterfront Park and, as residents know, they are in constant use by locals, fisherman with large boat trailers, cyclists, walkers, scooters, and families with strollers. The amount of traffic on weekends and summer

vacations is considerable and a building of such density would add too many cars to accommodate neighbourhood use safely.

- The issue of parking is also a huge concern and there is currently a lack of parking for the many summer events at the Waterfront Park. The Palmwood restaurant has seating for 150 people and when the restaurant is operational it will require extensive use of the currently available parking. Additional guest parking for a mixed use building with another restaurant, or guests, will simply not be available and will place stress on the public parking area for the Waterfront Park which is meant for residents.
- Safety concerns would include the entrance and exit points in the plan for the development. The roads are narrow laneways which result in congestion in the area and directly opposite to the proposed parking garage on Terrace Lane is a children's playground which is heavily used and busy. This is directly next to the entrance to the Waterfront Park and close to the bottom of the Millington Skyway (Ridgeway Road) which already constitute some tricky driving to navigate all the hazards. Adding a minimum of 100 cars in this area would add to the dangers for pedestrians and drivers.
- Environmental concerns have not been adequately addressed in the studies provided by the developer. The dune in question is part of Lake Erie shore line protection and areas around Lake Erie are becoming aware of the value of dunes in Lake Erie storms. These dunes absorb water and provide a barrier to the powerful flooding that occurs in major storms which are a feature to the area. This dune protects the water treatment plant for the town and it is necessary. We know that during storms, roads in the area have to be closed because of flooding, and the Waterfront Park floods and is covered by debris. To allow the destruction of the dune is not practical or sensible.
- The woods on the dune provide a safe habitat for the migrating birds and is home to Red Headed Woodpeckers, Baltimore Orioles, and Fowler Toads.
- The trees in the wooded areas are ancient and would not survive transplanting.
- To allow a mixed use building in a residential area with such density would overwhelm the area and alter the character, and diminish a Crystal Beach community space. Crystal Beach does not have a lot of public green space for residents. The Waterfront Park is heavily used and appreciated by locals and visitors and to limit access to it because of traffic and parking issues to accommodate a commercial property designed to accommodate non residents is patently unfair to the residents of Crystal Beach. It is the only access point to the waterfront which is free and available to all people regardless of disability or mobility.
- Other issues that concern residents are noise, shading, loss of privacy, garbage removal, deliveries to a commercial building, sewer, water, and storm water capacity, and the incompatibility of the design of the building.
- We are aware that there is a current application at the OLT where the owner is disputing the height and density restriction and there has been some discussion of negotiation between the developer and the town of Fort Erie. I think negotiation is premature without further study of this proposal. In my opinion this should be a "hard no" unless it can comply with our current Secondary Plan.
- The amendments being requested are "a bridge too far" from the Official Plan and the Crystal Beach Secondary Plan. The mixed use proposal in a residential area with a limit

of three stories and much less density is a gross over reach and would place too much stress on the infrastructure, and the goodwill and health of the Crystal Beach community as a whole.

- We agree with the changes to the Secondary Neighbourhood Plan which would increase density in our neighbourhood as long as it is three stories and density is no more than 50 units/hectare.

The proposed development contravenes the Official Plan, and the most recent Secondary Plan for Crystal Beach and fails to respect the natural character and constraints of the site, is incompatible with the surrounding land uses, and is not compatible with good planning or the community public interest.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns. I would like to be advised of all future decisions regarding this application.

sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the person writing the letter.

10 storey build Crystal Beach Dr.

From [REDACTED]
Date Tue 2025-06-03 2:44 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Good Afternoon Mr. Morton,

I along with [REDACTED] reside at [REDACTED]
As a family we are opposed to the 10 storey condo being built.

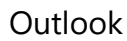
We hope that counsel will stick with the Crystal Beach secondary plan. Limit the build to 3 stories.

Just wanted our opposition on record.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



Against ten story condo on Terrace Lane

From [REDACTED]
Date Tue 2025-06-03 8:03 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterrie.ca>

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I intend to retire at my parents' cottage which is located [REDACTED] proposed ten story condo/motel. Please stick to the **official height density plan** for the proposed ten story condo/motel application for rezoning on the property on Terrace Lane.

Thank you,

Response	Percentage
Yes, the U.S. should take action to address climate change	95%
No, the U.S. should not take action to address climate change	5%

Comments on proposed condo/hotel development on Crystal Beach Drive

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 2025-06-02 7:11 PM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mr Morton

I [REDACTED] would like to speak to the staff and council at the June 9th public meeting. I also wish to be notified of the decision of the Council on the proposed Application. You may contact me by phone [REDACTED] or by regular mail. Or you can respond to this email address: [REDACTED]

A lot of open houses, consultations and hard work by the staff has gone into developing our Crystal Beach Secondary Plan. We feel this plan was excellent. Our Congratulations! You have addressed the province's need for housing. You have identified where more height and density should occur.

Please stick to these rules with respect to density and height on these properties. If so, we have no objection!

This application to dramatically change land use designation is very unreasonable.

We have lived in Crystal Beach for over [REDACTED] and are not opposed to intelligent development.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] There are century-old trees on this dune that will be destroyed.

The setbacks from [REDACTED] on this proposal are extremely narrow. Removing the applicant's portion of the sand dune will cause our and our neighbours' portion to collapse, causing damage to at least six abutting properties. The [REDACTED] of our property will be severely impacted.

This condo/hotel structure will tower over the existing residences and will not be sensitive to the entire established neighbourhood.

A structure of this height will block the sun. So much for any of [REDACTED] that are considering solar panels!

Obviously, parking is a major issue. Currently, the Crystal Beach Waterfront Park cannot accommodate the number of vehicles and boats that wish to use this beautiful attraction. Imagine what will happen when the Palmwood restaurant opens! The overflow parking of this condo/hotel development will end up taking valuable parking spaces in the already crowded Waterfront Park.

There will be a safety issue with the increased traffic that this development will create. Families with small children and strollers must use Ridgeway Road to access the Waterfront Park and beach. They are unable to use the existing sidewalks and stairs. Many drivers increase the speed of their vehicles in order to climb the hill at this portion of Ridgeway Road. More traffic will cause many problems.

The entrance to the parking garage is across from the Water Treatment plant. I trust the prospective buyers of this condo/hotel development will be advised that the trucks entering and leaving the Water Treatment plant will create noise. There will also be odour from the sewage settling tanks that will be visible from the units that are facing Crystal Beach Drive.

Please care about our community and Crystal Beach. Preserve the dunes, the century-old trees and build to the rules in our commonsense plan, that we have mutually developed.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

June 9th Hearing - Request to Speak

From [REDACTED]

Date Sun 2025-06-01 9:20 PM

To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening, Devon. The purpose of this email is to request permission to speak at the Jun 9th meeting to express my concerns about the proposed 10 story building between Crystal Beach Drive and Terrace Lane. Could you please let me know how to get on the agenda? Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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3856 Terrace Lane

From [REDACTED]
Date Wed 2025-06-04 11:43 AM
To Devon Morton <DMorton@forterie.ca>

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello

We wanted to share our thoughts about the proposed ten story build. We own the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and have been there since [REDACTED]. We like the idea of improving the area but at the same time also think it's too large to suit the neighborhood and would also cause our property to lose sunlight! It's also already a high traffic area with all the boats and park traffic and believe it will only make it less safe with all the extra amount of units proposed.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Submission to Committee in Council – Proposed Development in Crystal Beach

Submitted by:

Date: June 5, 2025

Main Submission

Dear Mayor Redikop, Members of Committee and Council

My name is Brian Treble. I am a Registered Professional Planner with over 35 years of experience in the Municipal Sector; most recently as Director of Planning and Building in the Township of West Lincoln. I understand and respect the Planning process including the challenges faced by your staff and yourselves, and I believe strongly in the importance of the public process.

Speaking on Behalf of Concerned Residents

This evening, I am speaking on behalf of over thirty Crystal Beach households who will be directly affected by the proposed development. These are reasonable and responsible individuals who fully understand and accept that some level of residential development is appropriate for these lands. They also recognize that achieving density and affordability may include varied housing types, potentially even low-rise apartments.

Lack of Clarity in the Application

There is significant confusion surrounding this application. The Notice of Public Meeting references an apartment building, yet it also proposes a change to a Core Mixed Use - Special Policy Area designation that seems unnecessary. This designation is typically intended for developments with a primary first floor commercial use—such as stores, restaurants, hotels, retail, or tourist accommodation—with residential uses being secondary or accessory. Further, as written, the Notice indicates that the Environmental Preservation designation is also changing to Core Mixed Use.

This raises several critical questions:

- Is the application solely for an apartment building?
- Is it for a luxury condominium hotel, as implied in the Planning Justification Report (PJR)?

- Or is it a resort-style development, as noted by the Region during pre-consultation?
- Dune protection should be paramount, why is the Environmental Preservation designation being removed.

From a professional planning standpoint, a luxury hotel or resort-style development is not equivalent to an apartment building and should not be treated as such within the planning framework. At an appropriate scale, apartment style use is much more compatible with the neighbourhood.

Inconsistencies with Policy and Area Character

Crystal Beach is a unique, environmentally sensitive, well-loved mixed-use community, with low to moderate density, smaller scale buildings. It includes:

- Public access points for beachgoers and fishermen
- Seasonal and permanent residential dwellings
- Environmentally significant features, such as sand dunes and habitats for migratory and native bird species
- A narrow street design in many parts of the community which affects on street parking and high volume traffic flow.
- A variety of commercial uses/core area along Erie Road.

Many municipalities along Lake Erie are also actively rehabilitating sand dunes as a defense against erosion and storm events. This proposal appears to endanger that natural protection system—particularly in light of recent severe weather impacts on nearby infrastructure such as the water treatment plant.

Failure to Align with the Official Plan/Secondary Plan

The current Urban Residential/Medium Residential and Environmental Protection designations are appropriate for the subject lands. The proposed Core Mixed Use designation does not align with the intent of either the Fort Erie Official Plan or the Crystal Beach Secondary Plan (CBSP).

Allowing a large commercial complex—whether a hotel or mixed-use development—within inches of existing single-family homes is not appropriate and does not represent good planning. If a hotel is truly proposed, it should be part of a comprehensive block-wide redesignation for the whole of the block. This piecemeal approach is incompatible with the area and contrary to established planning policies and good planning principles.

A highlight of Official Plan policy concerns includes:

Section 4.8.2.1. of the Official Plan includes policy language around small scale hotels,

Section 4.9.1. General Commercial Policies includes language stating that Council shall have regard for physical suitability, adequacy of street system, adequacy of off street parking, compatibility of commercial use with the adjoining area, safety of area with vehicular and pedestrian traffic, demonstration of consistency with Natural Heritage (and by extension Natural Hazard policies) of the Official Plan, adequate setbacks from property lines and adequate services amongst other policies.

A highlight of now in effect Secondary Plan policy concerns includes:

Section 4.22.1. Purpose identifies that the policy supports new or renewed development while remaining conscious and sensitive to the established community as a whole.

Section 4.22.3 Goals, includes guidance that the policy supports efforts to protect and preserve the cottage character through the creation and implementation of zoning that regulate massing to fall within similar topological constraints found amongst the prominent cottage form.

Section 4.22.3. Goals under the subtitle of Refined Commercial Core Delineation states that the policies of the Secondary Plan seek to curtail the potential for commercial creep into the residential areas..... The policy is intended to support efforts to concentrate the commercial activity

Section 4.22.4. Objectives (c and d) plan identifies best places to support intensifying residential form and to increase population in a moderate manner.

Section 4.22.9.14. (Site Specific – still subject to appeal) speaks to a required density of 25 to 50 units per hectare with a clause that provides opportunity for Council to reduce or restrict density in the zoning bylaw.

Key Planning Concerns with the Proposal

Whether the project is intended as a hotel or an apartment, the proposal is fundamentally flawed due to:

1. Scale, Height, and Density:

- **Proposed Building Height:** 10 storeys (highest existing building is 5 storeys; most are 2)
- **Proposed Lot Coverage:** 74% (compared to area standard of ~50%)
- **Proposed Density:** 385 units/ha (current policy supports 50 units/ha max)

This level of intensity is unprecedented for infill development in this area and is better suited to greenfield development with suitable infrastructure and spacing; transit corridors or downtowns.

2. Zoning:

- Requested setbacks of less than one metre from existing single-family homes are simply unacceptable for compatibility and privacy.
- The current zoning of the subject lands is RB2 which generally requires a side yard setback of 1.5 metres on one side and 3 metres on the other and a height of not more than 7 metres. The CBSP proposes a zoning of RM1-689 which requires a side yard setback of 1.5 metres and a height of not more than 3 storeys or 12 metres. The application proposes a RM1 zone with a side yard setback of presumably 0 metres and a height approaching 40 metres (estimated). The Notice only advises that the application requests site specific exceptions to lot area, lot coverage, setbacks, height and density.

3. Infrastructure and Traffic:

- Three ingress/egress points from the proposed development onto Crystal Beach Drive in a highly trafficked area is excessive
- Insufficient on-site parking, especially if commercial uses are included and intended to also service the local population
- Narrow, underdeveloped streets with minimal pedestrian infrastructure. Narrow roads, steep roads and sharp turns in this area alone are a challenge for modern equipment to properly maneuver and maintain.
- Potential for traffic overflow, congestion, and safety concerns
- Traffic study is not a complete analysis of the situation during peak seasons and does not analyze the flow of traffic in the area nor patterns of turning traffic.

4. Environmental Impacts:

- Removal of 42 trees and disturbance to dune ecosystem
- Potential threats to endangered species and natural hazard features
- Inadequate detail on how environmental protection goals will be achieved especially when the environmental designation is proposed to be redesignated as well
- Geotechnical concerns related to building on sandy soils and potential impacts to neighbouring properties

5. Inadequate Community Consultation and Transparency:

- The application description lacks clarity, leaving residents uncertain about the true nature and scope of the proposal
- Many residents chose not to attend tonight due to the benign wording "apartment building" in the Notice

- A second public meeting is needed to provide the community with a much more accurate, complete proposal.
- All reports should be peer reviewed at the developer's expense

Alternative Path Forward

Residents are supportive of the Secondary Plan policy adopted by Council in 2021 (Section 4.22.9.14.), currently under appeal. This policy supports:

- A maximum height of 3 storeys
- A maximum density of 50 units/ha

This policy represents a reasonable, balanced approach. The current proposal far exceeds those thresholds and fails to demonstrate good planning or alignment with the public interest. As a professional planner, I believe that the application in its current form, whether an apartment or a mixed use proposal, is too much density in the wrong location with environmental impacts, major compatibility concerns and is out of step with the intent of Town Official Plan/Secondary Plan policy.

Additional concerns are summarized in the Appendix to my submission.

Conclusion

This proposal, as submitted:

- **Fails to conform to Official Plan and Secondary Plan policies**
- **Fails to respect the natural character and constraints of the site**
- **Fails to achieve compatibility with surrounding land uses**
- **Fails to represent good planning or be in the public interest**

On behalf of the residents/households that I represent, I respectfully request that Committee and Council reject this application. We urge the proponent to work within the framework of the existing and Council-supported Secondary Plan and resubmit a proposal that is truly compatible with this unique and cherished part of Fort Erie. A second Public Meeting should be called, and Notice provided to the full circulation area, once a clear proposal can be outlined to the public.

I will end my presentation with two brief references to a press release of May 1, 2024 as issued by the Town in relation to the decision on an OLT matter located at 4409 Erie Road:

First, The Town recognizes the importance of balancing community vision, neighbourhood compatibility, mixed housing needs, and housing growth as realities to address housing needs in the community – but it must be done with a sustainable, responsible, and managed approach. The Town of Fort Erie has been supportive of gentle densification in certain areas of the community.....

Second, The town facilitated extensive public consultation and engagement on their way to developing the Crystal Beach Secondary Plan, which was approved in 2023 by the Ontario Land Tribunal. The waterfront in Crystal Beach was not identified as an area for intensification in the CBSP to preserve and protect the natural character of these unique waterfront neighbourhoods.

This concludes my presentation. I welcome your questions and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Appendix – Detailed Technical and Planning Concerns

This section outlines more detailed concerns regarding the proposed development. These are critical planning, engineering, and environmental issues that must be addressed prior to any approval. The scale and nature of the proposal present numerous challenges to compatibility, infrastructure, environmental protection, and public safety.

Drainage and Stormwater Management

- - There is no indication of an on-site stormwater retention system. Given the sensitivity of the area, proper drainage design is essential.
- - The development must account for runoff control and flood protection to safeguard surrounding properties and public infrastructure.

Storm Protection for Regional Infrastructure

- - Multiple winter storm events have highlighted vulnerabilities along the waterfront. The proposal must incorporate measures to protect the nearby Regional Water Treatment Plant from storm surge and erosion.

Soil Stability and Geotechnical Risks

- - A geotechnical study is critical due to sandy/dune soils. Past studies required access to adjacent properties to stabilize neighbouring foundations—an alarming precedent.
- - There must be clarity and transparency around foundation design, especially where excavation occurs near existing dwellings.
- Much more detail is required on the shoring proposal as the integrity and stability of several adjacent properties and buildings could be jeopardized.

Environmental Sensitivity

- - The site includes dune features and tree cover, with potential presence of rare or endangered species.
- - The removal of 42 trees and construction on a dune contradict the Environmental Protection goals of the Official Plan and Secondary Plan.

Traffic, Access, and Public Safety

- - Three ingress/egress points on Crystal Beach Drive raise safety concerns in a congested, high-pedestrian area.
- - Street infrastructure is rudimentary. Narrow roads, limited sidewalks, and peak-season congestion amplify risks.
- Additional traffic work is required in appropriate seasons that takes into account traffic flow and turns.

On-Street Parking and Road Capacity

- - The proposal lacks adequate parking, especially if commercial uses are included. Overflow onto local streets will exacerbate existing parking shortages.

- - Road widening may be necessary, particularly if delivery and waste vehicles increase traffic volume.
- Significant road widening will not be in keeping with the character of the area including Crystal Beach Drive east of the subject lands.

Incompatibility with Area Character

- - The proposed density and height are inconsistent with surrounding single- and two-storey dwellings.
- - A ten-storey building does not respect the established scale or character of the neighbourhood.

Site Design and Grading Challenges

- - The property has considerable elevation changes. Functional site design may require extensive retaining walls that could destabilize adjacent properties.
- - What mitigation measures are proposed to protect neighbouring structures during excavation?

Commercial Servicing Impacts

- - Commercial uses would increase: Delivery traffic, noise from backup alarms, loading activity, and private waste collection needs.
- - These are inappropriate near low-density residential areas.

Incomplete Streetscape and Infrastructure Planning

- - Improvements must extend beyond the site's frontage. The broader area lacks pedestrian infrastructure and is not designed for high-traffic urban development.
- - Sewer, water, and stormwater systems must be reviewed to determine if they can accommodate the scale of development.

Overshadowing and Neighbourhood Impacts

- - This development is visually and physically imposing. It will dwarf surrounding homes, disrupt privacy, cast shadows on neighbouring properties, and introduce noise, light, and congestion beyond what is typical for the area.

Liability and Neighbour Protection

- - Excavation to the property boundary raises the question: Who assumes liability for damage to neighbouring homes?
- - Residents should have the opportunity to review shoring and slope stabilization plans prior to construction.
- An inventory of existing buildings and their structural integrity should be completed before construction is permitted.

Outstanding Technical Reports

- - The Planning Justification Report references the need for further slope stability analysis. This study should be completed and shared with residents for review before any decisions are made by Council.
- All supporting reports should be peer reviewed at the expense of the developer.

Sustainability and Environmental Claims

- - The PJR mentions stormwater recycling and climate-friendly design, yet references to a standard storm pipe contradict these claims.
- - Environmental protection references lack detail and measurable commitments.

Waste Management and Servicing Concerns

- - Garbage storage on the exterior of the building is inappropriate, particularly for a development of this scale. The proposed storage appears to be inadequate for a building with 100 residential units and a commercial component.
- - There is no evident provision for the recycling of organic materials (green bin/composting) in the development plans, which fails to align with municipal and regional sustainability goals and waste diversion standards.

Policy Context

- - The proposal appears to conflict with Section 13.7.III and several other policies of the Fort Erie Official Plan and Crystal Beach Secondary Plan and with Section 2 of the Planning Act, which speak to matters of provincial interest including environmental protection, orderly development, appropriate location for growth and development, and infrastructure coordination.

Emailed to Devon Morton, Supervisor of Development Approvals, Town of Fort Erie on June 26, 2025

dmorton@forterie.ca

SUBMISSION RELATED TO:

Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Amendment Application for

3856 Terrace Lane, Fort Erie & Unassigned Parcel 0-15097 Crystal Beach Drive, Fort Erie

File Number: ZBA-17-2024A, OPA-08-2024

Dear Mr. Morton:

My name is [REDACTED] P.Eng. (Ret'd), and I am a long-time cottage owner at the [REDACTED] of Crystal Beach Drive, [REDACTED]. I bring over 53 years of professional experience as a structural consulting engineer, during which I have been involved in the design and execution of a wide range of development projects. These include commercial, hospitality, and residential high-rise buildings, as well as educational, recreational, religious, and industrial developments—spanning sectors such as pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, processing, and data storage—across North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Through this extensive and varied career, I have developed a comprehensive understanding of the development process and the many challenges it entails. I recognize the technical, regulatory, financial, and logistical complexities involved, as well as the often competing requirements and interests that must be balanced to bring a project from concept to completion.

It is from this informed perspective—and as a concerned member of the local community—that I offer the following observations and concerns regarding the current proposal.

I see a number of issues with the proposed development and I am writing to object to the above application on the basis of the following:

- Zoning
- Environmental
- Technical & safety

ZONING

Context:

The re-zoning application of 18 Dec 2024 sought an amendment to the Zoning By-law from RM1-689 & H to a site specific “RM – As permitted”.

However, the application as currently presented:

- 10 storeys,
- a height of 32.106m based on the elevation drawings
- setbacks ranging from 0.4m to the west, 0.0m at the northeast corner to 0.1m at the rear and a density of 385 units per hectare.

would suggest a Site Specific Core Mixed Use designation because of the density, setbacks and height proposed which would be at variance with the Town of Fort Erie CMU-1 designation which permits hotels and dwelling units among other commercial uses with the following requirements:

- a maximum of 4-storeys
- a height of 15m
- side yard setbacks of 2.5m abutting residential zone and rear setbacks of 4.5m except abutting residential zone 10.0m

Lack of Clarity in Development Intent

The supporting technical reports included in the application refer to a range of building types—describing the proposed development at times as a “**ten-storey residential apartment building**” and elsewhere as a “**luxury residential condominium hotel.**” These two descriptions reflect significantly different building uses, occupancy patterns, servicing demands, and community impacts. The inconsistency creates confusion and raises legitimate concerns about the true nature and intent of the development. Greater clarity is required to ensure that the project is evaluated appropriately in terms of zoning compliance, infrastructure capacity, parking requirements, and its long-term impact on the surrounding neighbourhood.

Core Mixed Use -Special Policy Plan as proposed is an **inappropriate zoning designation** for a location that is neither downtown nor community hub area as it does not meet height, density not setback requirements.

While noting that none of the policies of the Crystal Beach Secondary Plan apply to the property (RM1-689; - 0-15097 Crystal Beach Road CBSP policy 4.22.9.14A) because of an appeal, Core Mixed Use is not in keeping with the Crystal Beach Secondary Plan, where a RM1 designation for the property would be entirely consistent with the Crystal Beach Secondary Plan objectives.

The application represents a significant and, in my view, egregious attempt to intensify development beyond what is reasonably supported by the existing zoning by-laws. The proposal appears to disregard fundamental planning principles, including even minimal building setbacks, which exist to preserve the privacy, light access, and general well-being of adjoining properties. Such disregard for the established character of the neighbourhood and the reasonable expectations of nearby residents is troubling. It suggests a development approach driven more by

maximizing density and profit than by compatibility, responsibility, or respect for the community context. In an era where thoughtful, sustainable, and inclusive development should be the standard, this proposal falls short in both intent and execution.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Noise:

The submitted RWDI Noise Study dated 29 Oct 2024 noted the following:

*“A conservative screening level assessment **found sound levels** from the Crystal Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant are predicted **to be above the applicable sound level limits** at the proposed development **during the nighttime period**. The sound levels are predicted to meet the applicable sound level limits during the daytime and evening.*

*Based on the results of this assessment; **mitigation is required to meet the applicable MECP Class 2 exclusion limits** at noise sensitive locations within the proposed development.”:*

The RWDI study accompanying the application fails to propose any meaningful noise mitigation methods to address the existing environmental noise conditions—most notably the elevated nighttime noise levels generated by the nearby wastewater treatment plant. This omission is particularly concerning given that such noise can have a significant impact on the quality of life for future residents.

Without appropriate mitigation, residents may be compelled to keep their windows closed at night to maintain acceptable indoor sound levels. This is especially problematic during the summer months and the shoulder seasons of spring and fall, when natural ventilation would otherwise be desirable or necessary due to warmer temperatures. The lack of proposed mitigation measures raises questions about the suitability of the site for residential occupancy without further noise attenuation strategies, such as upgraded glazing, building orientation considerations, or mechanical ventilation systems designed to allow for closed-window operation.

Odour:

Upon reviewing the RWDI Odour Study associated with the proposed development near the Niagara Region Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), several factual inaccuracies and omissions require attention:

1. **Incorrect Setback Statement**

The report states: *“The proposed development will consist of a 10-storey residential and commercial building, set back 30 metres from Crystal Beach Drive.”*

This is incorrect. The actual setback from Crystal Beach Drive is approximately 4.2 metres. The figure of 30 metres appears to reflect the distance between the proposed building and certain WWTP infrastructure, not the public roadway. Specifically, the closest WWTP building is approximately 28 metres from the proposed building, and the diesel generator stack is approximately 38 metres away. This discrepancy calls into question the accuracy of the spatial assumptions used in the odour impact analysis.

2. **Misleading Context Regarding Existing Residences**

The report claims: *“Currently there are existing two-storey residences located in closer proximity to the WWTP than the proposed development.”*

However, it fails to acknowledge that the majority of these nearby residences predate the construction of the WWTP. The few newer homes were built on previously occupied lots and therefore do not represent new encroachment toward the plant. This distinction is critical in assessing land-use compatibility and planning intent. Using these residences to justify the introduction of a dense, multi-storey development in such proximity to the WWTP is misleading and does not account for the historical planning context.

3. **Undervalued Risk from Elevated Odour Emissions**

The report notes: *“All stacks are low lying, with the exception of the diesel generator exhaust stack, which is twice the building height as per its ECA (Air) No. 8-2101-90-007. Given the height of the generator stack there is the potential for impacts on the subject lands at elevated receptors. However, the generator is restricted to emergency use only with periodic testing.”*

This underrepresents the potential impact. The diesel generator stack is 18 metres above grade at the WWTP, which itself sits approximately 1.5 metres below the proposed building's ground floor elevation. Therefore, the top of the stack would align roughly 16.6 metres above the proposed building's ground floor—approximately at the 6th floor level. As such, residents from the 6th floor upward would qualify as “elevated receptors” and could be exposed to emissions during periodic testing or emergency operation. This exposure warrants a more thorough evaluation than is currently presented.

See Figure 1 below.

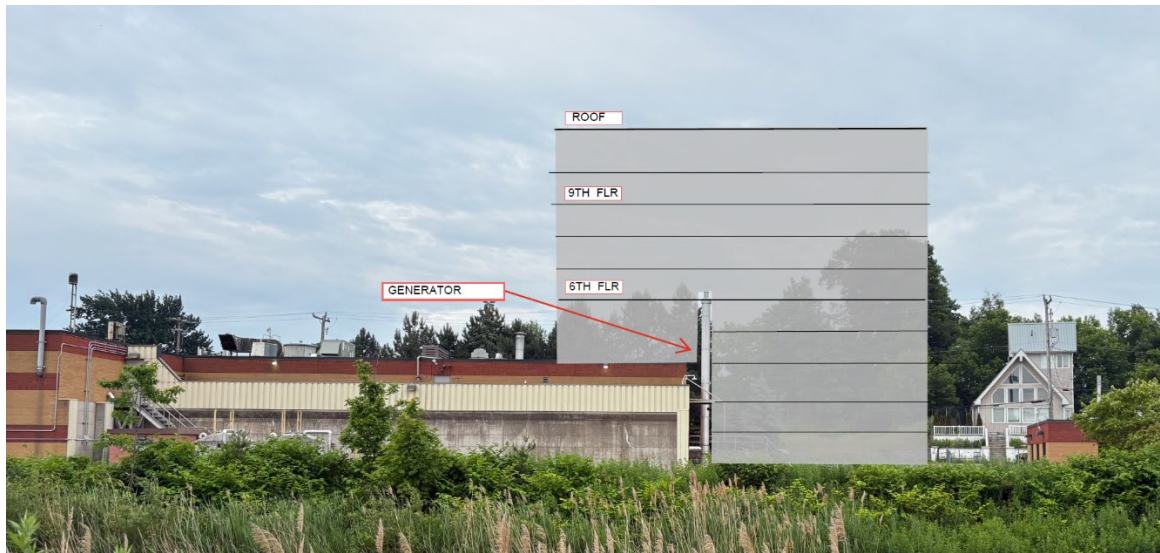


Figure 1: The development superimposed on the WWTP.

The RWDI report's treatment of the WWTP's diesel generator operation is overly simplistic and does not adequately address real-world scenarios. The generator is not merely an emergency backup that operates infrequently—it is tested monthly for one hour and is relied upon during power outages. A notable example occurred during the week-long blackout that began around 3:30 p.m. on December 23, 2022. During that event, the WWTP's emergency generator ran for approximately nine hours before failing due to a fuel shortage. This left the facility inoperable and raised significant concerns about public health and environmental protection.

In a future prolonged outage, the generator may need to operate continuously for multiple days. Given the proximity of the proposed building to the WWTP—particularly the elevation of its residential units relative to the generator stack—extended generator use could have serious implications for air quality, odour exposure, and the wellbeing of future occupants. This is especially concerning for residents on the sixth floor and above, whose living spaces fall within the likely emission zone of the 18-metre-high stack.

These potential risks are not adequately acknowledged or mitigated in the current application materials and warrant further review before development proceeds.

4. Wind Effects, Odour Dispersion, and Reputational Considerations

The RWDI report notes that winds from the north and northeast—directly from the direction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) toward the proposed development—occur approximately 6% of the time, with winds from the north through east-northeast accounting for about 11% annually. Statistically, this equates to approximately 40 days per

year—nearly six weeks—during which odours or emissions from the WWTP could be carried directly toward the proposed residential building.

Despite this, RWDI has not addressed the impact of the proposed building’s substantial height and massing on local wind patterns. Given RWDI’s recognized expertise in wind studies, it is surprising that the report omits consideration of wind interactions such as eddies, downdrafts, and accelerated flows that may result from prevailing west and southwest winds striking a ten-storey structure. These effects could alter the dispersion of gases and odours in unpredictable ways, potentially increasing exposure for both the proposed development and existing homes along Ryan Avenue and Shores Lane.

Additionally, from a marketing and community branding perspective, the contrast between promoting a “luxury condominium hotel” and its direct proximity to a wastewater treatment facility poses reputational risks. In the age of social media, platforms like Facebook, Instagram, X, and TikTok provide instant visibility to any negative commentary. Public scrutiny of this incongruous juxtaposition could damage the public perception of the development and, more broadly, the image of Crystal Beach as a desirable destination.

Carbon Monoxide Gases

The proposal includes two levels of above-grade parking, which—based on the lack of visible mechanical ventilation shafts or ductwork in the submitted drawings—appear to rely on natural ventilation via open sides. This design approach raises several concerns.

Given the building’s minimal setbacks and near-zero lot line construction, any exhaust fumes—including carbon monoxide—from idling or slow-moving vehicles within the ground and second-floor parking levels are likely to vent directly toward adjacent residential properties to the east and west. This presents a tangible nuisance and potential air quality issue for neighbours, particularly during periods of heavy use or temperature inversions. As a general principle, all exhaust gases generated within the building should be captured, filtered, and discharged in a manner that minimizes off-site impacts. Relying on natural ventilation without accounting for the structure’s context and adjacency to sensitive uses is inappropriate in a high-density residential area.

Moreover, it is reasonable to expect that certain odorous gases emitted from the nearby Wastewater Treatment Plant may accumulate within the parking structure—especially in lower, shielded areas with reduced air circulation. While such accumulation may not rise to the level of a life safety concern, it would likely result in persistent unpleasant conditions for users of the garage and contribute to the overall degradation of air quality within the building envelope.

A detailed mechanical ventilation strategy, combined with odour control measures, should be a prerequisite for approval of above-grade parking in such close proximity to existing homes and a known odour source.

Tree Removal

The Jackson Arboriculture Inc. report, dated September 20, 2024, outlines the significant environmental impact of the proposed development. According to the report, a total of 60 trees were assessed across both the development site and adjacent properties. Of these, 42 trees are proposed to be removed in order to accommodate construction activities. This figure includes all 29 trees currently located within the development area itself, as well as an additional 13 trees situated on neighbouring private properties.

In effect, the report confirms that not a single tree within the development site would be retained, and furthermore, that trees located on properties outside the project boundaries would also be removed. The 18 remaining trees—all of which are to be preserved—are located entirely on adjacent lands and are not directly part of the development parcel.

This level of tree loss is deeply concerning and appears to be at odds with the Town of Fort Erie's stated environmental planning objectives and its broader commitment to sustainable development. The complete removal of on-site tree cover, combined with the encroachment on vegetation located on neighbouring properties, suggests a lack of meaningful integration of natural features into the site design. It also raises questions about compliance with municipal policies concerning tree protection, private property rights, and environmental stewardship.

Given the scale of tree removal—70% of all assessed trees, including off-site impacts—this development proposal warrants closer scrutiny to ensure alignment with Fort Erie's Official Plan, environmental values, and any applicable tree conservation by-laws. It is especially important to understand how the removal of trees from adjacent properties has been authorized, and whether adequate mitigation measures, such as tree replacement or preservation of mature specimens, have been considered.

Ultimately, the extensive loss of tree cover resulting from this project not only compromises local ecological health and urban canopy coverage, but also undermines the Town's long-term vision for sustainable growth.

Dunes

The entire block from Ridgeway Road to Lake Street is the last vestige of the dune that once stretched from the east side of Bay Beach to Lake Street. The development of the Amusements Park in 1890 and subsequent development of Crystal Beach Tennis & Yacht Club removed a large section of the dune.



The current proposal would slice through the sand dune and leave the remaining properties to the west of the development and east of Ridgeway Road vulnerable to sand erosion during construction.

TECHNICAL & SAFETY

Temporary Shoring & Unequal Lateral Soil Pressure

The Geotechnical Report Addendum dated Oct 24, 2024 by Niagara Testing & Inspection Ltd. States that with the Basement elevation at +175.797m, conventional spread footings on Cherty Limestone bedrock foundation level +174.4- to +175.4m below weathered or fractured rock layers would be required. That is anywhere between 3 and 4m below the roadway on Crystal Beach Drive (+178.42m).

The adjacent properties to the west have a maximum elevation of +188.79m meaning the shoring will be 14.39m (47' 2") high. The corresponding maximum east side shoring would be approximately 6.25m (20' 6").

The report recognises that excavations will be to the property lines and that shoring will be required and *"the upper levels of the shoring system would have to be supported by a 'tie-back' arrangement drilled at an angle into the Cherty Limestone rock under the adjacent properties to the east and west and also under the road at Crystal Beach Drive where utilities have to be avoided."* Alternately, should permission for tie-backs be refused by the adjacent property owners then a temporary raker and waler system of shoring within the confines of the property under development will be necessary, but would have to be removed when the concrete floors slabs are completed and have attained their specified strength.

Lateral soil pressure increases with depth so the lateral pressure from the west will be greater than the lateral pressure from the east which act facing each other. Tie-backs resist the lateral forces on each side. In the absence of tie-backs the unequal forces in opposite directions must be resisted by the structure and this would require significant east-west concrete shear walls which are not account for in the floor plans and would impede circulation within the below grade parking level and the first three floors above grade. See Figures 2 and 3 below.

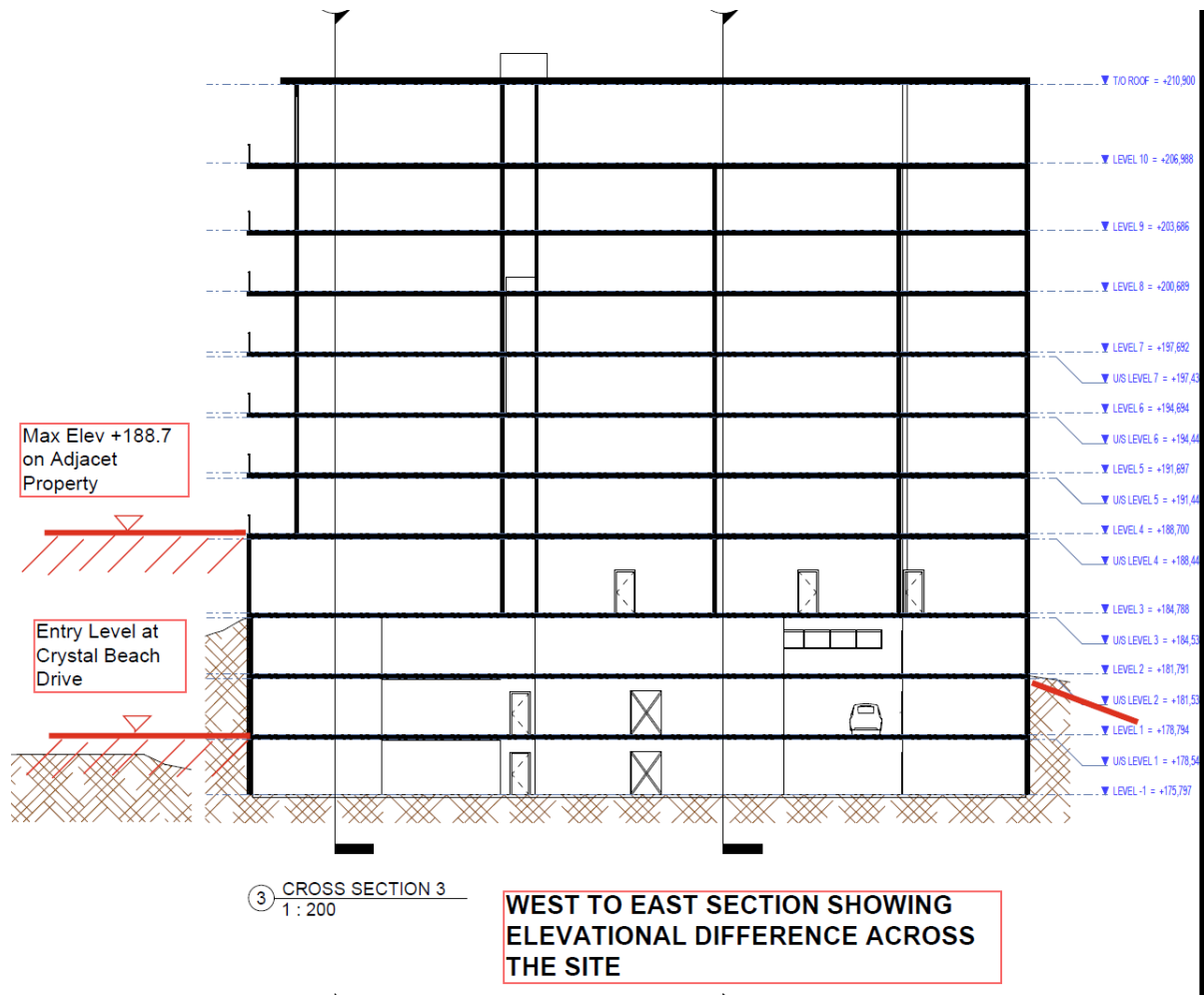


Figure 2:

The report also references issues such as :

- the need for stabilisation of the sandy soil overlying the rock, and erosion control measures;

- “Unfortunately, because of the lot coverage there will be little vegetative stabilization (usually by planting native grasses, shrubs, and trees) which is a natural and effective way to anchor the soil and reduce surface erosion.”
- “Water management is equally important. Effective drainage systems, such as swales or French drains, help redirect water away from the site, reducing water saturation in the soil. Permeable surfaces and rainwater harvesting systems can further reduce surface runoff that might otherwise contribute to erosion. “
- “Ongoing monitoring and maintenance are essential after construction to ensure the long-term stability of the site.”

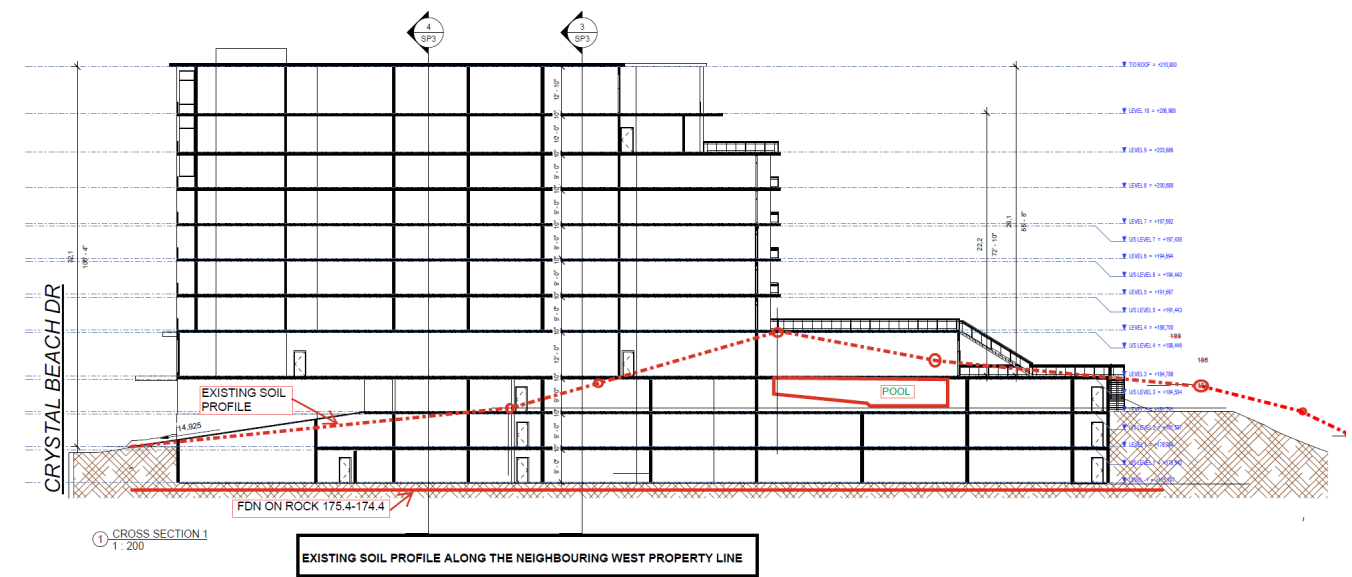


Figure 3: Existing Soil Profile Along West Property Line

Traffic Study - Access Design and Loading Concerns

The Traffic Study by RVA dated October 31, 2024 was carried out on August 9, 2022 during the COVID pandemic when traffic was far from normal.

The report fails to address the unconventional placement of three access points in close proximity to one another—situated within 20 metres of both the Ridgeway Road/Crystal Beach Drive intersection to the west and the Lake Avenue/Crystal Beach Drive intersection to the east. This concentration of access points near two key intersections may lead to increased traffic conflicts, reduced sightlines, and heightened safety concerns for both drivers and pedestrians.

Additionally, the report does not consider the lack of dedicated loading and unloading facilities for the commercial unit located on the third floor. In the absence of appropriate loading

infrastructure, it is likely that delivery and service vehicles will rely on street parking, further exacerbating congestion and potentially impeding traffic flow and pedestrian safety on Crystal Beach Drive.

Instead the report states: *“It should be noted that as previously mentioned the subject development site consists of 3 site driveways, given the close proximity of them and the low volume of projected site generated trips, the driveways have been consolidated into one access for analysis purposes.”*

The study also assumes that all traffic from the development is commuter traffic in the morning and evening based on a normal residential condominium.

The Luxury Hotel Condominium concept is totally ignored. How would hotel guests know which of the three accesses to use on arrival?

Stormwater Management and Flood Risk Concerns

The RVA Functional Servicing Report dated October 30, 2024, references the Town of Fort Erie Design Guidelines, which require that post-development peak stormwater flows be controlled to match pre-development rates for storm events up to and including the 5-year return period. While this standard may align with current guidelines, it does not reflect the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events.

The report states: *“Flows exceeding the post-development 5-year event shall be discharged overland to the Crystal Beach Drive or Terrace Lane right-of-way.”* This approach implies that any stormwater exceeding the 5-cubic-meter capacity of the on-site stormwater retention tank will be diverted overland, resulting in surface runoff along Terrace Lane. As a consequence, the adjacent Playground area is at risk of experiencing more severe flooding than would have occurred under pre-development conditions.

It is important to note that storm events exceeding the 5-year threshold are no longer rare. The flooding incident on November 20, 2020, which affected Ridgeway Road near the entrance to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, serves as a recent and relevant example of this growing trend.

Given this context, reliance on a 5-year storm event as the design standard is increasingly insufficient. Additional mitigation measures or an updated hydrological assessment may be warranted to ensure that the development does not exacerbate local flooding risks, particularly in sensitive community areas such as the Playground.

████████████████████