

BOUNDARY DISPUTE

London now chasing only part of Westminster

London Mayor Tom Gosnell also said the side deal the city had worked out with London Township has been shelved by the province.

By Chip Martin
The London Free Press

The City of London has decided it can nearly triple in size without having to digest the entire Town of Westminster.

City council will tell provincial arbitrator John Brant that London is willing to do without the southern extremities of the town when the city states its case for expansion at a March 10 public meeting.

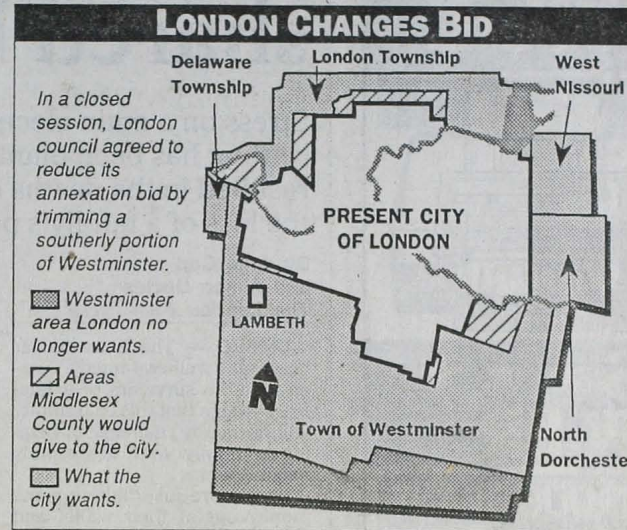
It marks a return to an earlier position pressed by the city but rejected by Westminster, which said the remnant part of the town would not be viable. The town persuaded the city it would be preferable to take over the entire town than leave a hard-to-service strip along Westminster's

southern boundary.

London Mayor Tom Gosnell said Tuesday the city will let Middlesex County decide what to do with the remnant part of Westminster.

Gosnell said the city has made few other alterations in its last bid to annex parts of five neighboring municipalities. He noted, however, that a tentative deal between the city and London Township has been ordered "off the table" by the province.

The city had planned to annex a strip of the township, including half of the hamlet of Hyde Park, in exchange for compensation, running water and sewer services to nearby parts of the township. But the ministry of municipal affairs ruled such side deals are not in the long-term



best interest of the area.

Brant has been asked to consult the public and local councils and then to recommend a solution to the decade-long annexation standoff by the end of March.

While Brant has set a series of hearings to permit public involvement, the city has chosen to present its case without further contributions from citizens, a situation that angers Councillor

ANNEXATION MEETINGS AND TOPICS

- Tonight:** 6-10 p.m.; Bryanston community centre; for communities northeast of London.
- Feb. 25:** 6-10 p.m.; London council chambers; focus on the environment.
- Feb. 27:** 6-10 p.m.; Thorndale community centre; for communities northwest of London.
- March 3:** 6-10 p.m.; Middlesex County building; focus on essential services and institutions.
- March 5:** 6-10 p.m.; London council chambers; for London residents.
- March 7:** 10 a.m. to noon; Glencoe council chambers.
- March 7:** 1-3 p.m.; Strathroy council chambers.
- March 7:** 4-6 p.m.; Ailsa Craig recreation centre.
- March 10:** 6-10 p.m.; London council chambers; focus on political and jurisdictional questions.
- March 12:** 6-10 p.m.; Westminster community centre; for communities south of London.
- March 14:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Middlesex County building; town hall meeting to summarize all hearings.

Pat O'Brien.

"I would have wanted that (citizen) input before we finalized our position. To me, that's fundamental to the democratic process. And yet, in this case, we haven't

followed that process," O'Brien said Tuesday.

Gosnell said citizens are welcome to make comments directly to Brant as part of the public participation process.

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Farmers gearing up for fight of their lives

Dairy, egg and poultry farmers from across Canada, including Elgin County, are gearing up for what they consider the fight of their lives.

Thousands of farmers and supporters are expected to turn out for a mass demonstration Friday on Parliament Hill to support the supply management system that protects them from cheap imports.

"It's going to be the biggest farm demonstration that this country will ever see," said Graham Warwick, a director with the Elgin Federation of Agriculture.

At issue is a new international trade agreement that would, if adopted, ban import controls and

'It's going to be the biggest farm demonstration that this country will ever see,'

Graham Warwick
EFA director

force countries like Canada to replace them with tariffs. This would destroy Canadian marketing boards, farm leaders say.

Buses will leave at 1:30 a.m. sharp

Friday from Quality Swine Co-operative near Shedden to arrive in Ottawa in time for the demonstration at 12 noon. The buses will also stop to pick up passengers at Top Notch Feeds in Aylmer at 2 a.m.

Cost of transportation is \$40. To register, contact Don Miller 764-2854 or Doug Davies, 773-3646. Mr. Warwick said anyone unable to attend is urged to join a delegation that will present a brief addressing their concerns to the office of Elgin-Norfolk MP Ken Monteith at 12 noon Friday. His office is located at 550-A Talbot Street, St. Thomas. The delegation is being organized by Neighbor Network of Kent County. For more information, contact Bob King at 785-0635.

Farm leader rallies forces

By SUSAN WINKELAAR
Thomson News Service

OTTAWA — Ontario's pre-eminent farm leader sounded the battle cry against bullying tactics from Canada's big brother to the south.

"Whatever happens at GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), we shall fight on," said Roger George, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. "There is one country to convince and that is the U.S."

About 400 farm leaders from across Canada met in Ottawa Tuesday to discuss the implications of an impending GATT deal, which would revise international trade.

"I see no sign of compassion from our U.S. neighbors for our special Canadian interests," said George. "I see instead a mighty nation greedily looking north to a tempting market of 26 million people that is relatively easy to service."