

**ANNEXATION**

Morris Lamont/The London Free Press

London employee Steve Corby attaches a revised population total to a sign marking the new city limits on Dundas Street just east of Nissouri Road. But the sign is overly generous, since the city's pre-annexation population was 303,000 and the annexed areas have only 8,500 residents.

# First working day has hardly a hitch

Citizens who tried to call the former Westminster town hall still received an answer but the words they were greeted with were: 'City of London.'

By Chip Martin  
The London Free Press

The first working day after London nearly tripled in size was pronounced a relatively smooth affair by city hall staff.

City clerk Ken Sadler said Monday the day went well, a fact he attributed partly to information brochures distributed in advance to the 8,500 residents

in the annexed areas.

(The population of the new areas is about 3,500 less than the 12,000 originally projected by Ontario's municipal affairs ministry. Inexplicably, London population signs were adjusted from 303,000 to 316,000 on Monday.)

"I never did expect any major problems," Sadler said.

At the city's social services department, things also went smoothly, re-

ported administrator Glenn Howlett. Social assistance recipients from the annexed areas accounted for the addition of 125 general welfare cases to London's 13,500 caseload and all had been contacted in advance by letter outlining new procedures.

As well, Howlett said, a city staff member will visit all welfare recipients who have transferred from Middlesex County to the city.

**MOVING VANS:** At the former Westminster town office, moving vans took desks, chairs, computers and municipal files to city hall Monday morning.

Aside from some financial staff

cleaning up paperwork, two staffers handled a blizzard of phone calls. While the town office number remained the same, callers were greeted with the words: "City of London . . ."

Dianne Mollard, former town clerk and now assistant secretary of London's board of control, said most callers were concerned about tax payment procedures and, with Monday's heavy rainfall, flooding problems. Callers were directed to appropriate city departments.

The old town office phone number will remain in service for three weeks, after which callers will be connected directly to London city hall, she said.