

WESTMINSTER

New street names 'a crock of garbage'

It's necessary, the town says, to avoid duplicate street names in neighboring communities.

By Ron Steele
The London Free Press

WESTMINSTER — George Dilts has a new address even though he hasn't moved from the place where he's lived for 60 years, and he's plenty angry.

Dilts was one of about 50 rural-route residents who appeared at a town planning committee meeting Monday to protest a new bylaw that changes the names of a large number of streets and makes house numbers mandatory.

"It's a crock of garbage," said Dilts. "I know where I live. I don't need a new address."

Betty Rowe feels the money for the project would be better spent on a garbage recycling program for the town. And Chuck Tallett believes "police, fire and ambulance can all find us. This is just to create employment for someone in the (town offices)."

FEEL BETRAYED: The group's spokesman, Sharen Cousin, told the committee residents feel "betrayed. Our heritage has been taken away. We've lost the

(street) names our fathers and grandfathers used."

She said the cost of renaming streets and numbering houses could better be spent on a planned library.

About 25 concession roads and streets, mostly in the rural areas of the town, will be renamed.

All property owners must purchase, from the town, a "property identification sign with the appropriate numbers," for \$22.

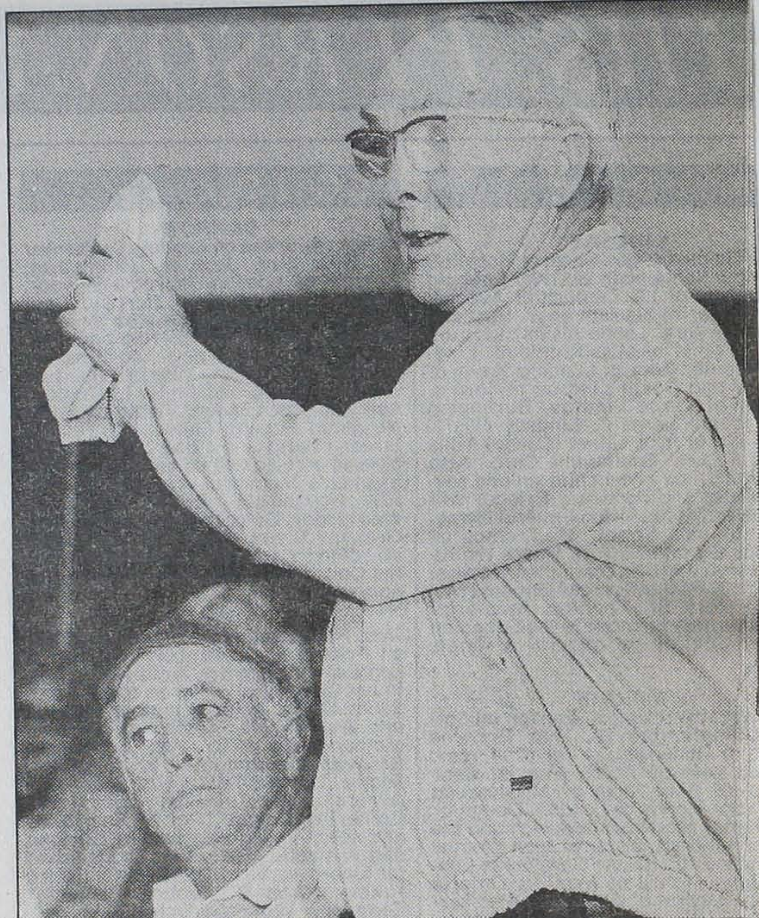
COULD COST \$60: The sign can be attached to the building if it is less than 100 feet (30.48 metres) from the roadway. Otherwise a post can be purchased and the cost rises to \$44. If the homeowner wants the post and sign installed by the town, the cost goes up to \$60.

After Jan. 31, property owners could be fined if the identification sign has not been installed.

Town planning technician Anthony Krieger said the street renaming and house numbering is designed to avoid duplicate street names in neighboring communities, especially London. The house numbering will make it easier for emergency vehicles and others to find rural homes.

Mayor David Murray said he hopes to persuade Canada Post to accept the new addresses without a rural-route designation.

Cousin said her group is circulating a petition, which has about 1,000 names, against the project.



Michael Pittana/The London Free Press

George Weaver tells Westminster planning committee members Monday that he's not impressed with the imposition of new street names. He said his old address was fine for 70 years and the postal service does not recognize his new address.

FAMILIAR NAMES FADING

Name changes for some of the better known roadways in Westminster:

OLD NAME	NEW NAME
<input type="checkbox"/> Gore Road	Homewood Lane, Murray Road, Cook Road and Thomas Lane
<input type="checkbox"/> Highway 74	Westchester Bourne
<input type="checkbox"/> County Road 35	Glanworth Drive
<input type="checkbox"/> Highway 2	Longwoods Road
<input type="checkbox"/> Hubrey Road	Highbury Avenue
<input type="checkbox"/> Southfield Road	Breck Avenue