

NEW STREET NAMES

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They have answers but doubts remain

An open house provides reasons for changing Westminster's names and numbers but at least some disgruntled townfolk are unswayed.

By Chip Martin
The London Free Press

WESTMINSTER — Mike Lacey appeared satisfied with answers he received here Wednesday at an open house to explain Westminster's new system of street names and addresses.

But "I'm still not happy about it," the Lambeth resident grumbled, after having his new address explained to him.

Lacey lives on Scott Street, being renamed Scottsbury Place under a town plan to eliminate duplication with street names in neighboring communities such as London.

IT WAS WORKING: Lacey said he understands the need for numbers on rural properties to help emergency and delivery vehicles locate specific homes, but he can't understand why the town would want to change names and numbers "that have been

working for quite awhile."

Lacey is not alone, judging by resistance from town residents.

Just this week, council was presented with a 600-name petition opposing the scheme as "a complete waste of tax dollars."

Cheryl McLachlan of Concession 6, now Scotland Drive, helped circulate the petition and was one of dozens of Westminster residents who attended the open house.

RENEGING ON PROMISE:

McLachlan said by pushing through the name change without adequate consultation with residents council is renegeing on a promise that by becoming a town, Westminster would be better able to resist the sort of changes that might be forced on it by annexation.

Others at the Wednesday open house grumbled that the new postal addresses that can occupy six lines of type are too large for letterheads and computer address labels.

Town Councillor Fred Sexton said he underestimated the extent of opposition to the name changes. He said the town has tried to find new historically significant names to quell some opposition.

He said the name changes were essential to eliminate duplication because of a trend toward increasing regionalization of services.



George Blumson/*The London Free Press*

Jim Somerville began putting up the first of 150 new street signs in the town of Westminster Wednesday. The Westminster road department employee erected signs for Westminster Drive and Wonderland Road South at the crossing south of Highway 402. The old Bostwick Road is now Wonderland Road South. Workers hope to have all the signs in place before freezing temperatures and snow hit the area.