

**WESTMINSTER****Canada Post, town differ on addresses**

Residents attending an open house today can expect to hear two versions of 'proper' mailing addresses.

By Chip Martin  
The London Free Press

WESTMINSTER—What's in a name? Depends on whom you ask.

Town residents can't be blamed for their confusion over the proper mailing addresses in the Town of Westminster.

The town and Canada Post are locked in a standoff about the proper form of address.

The town, anxious to assert its identity, wants its name to appear on mail addressed to Westminster residents.

Canada Post couldn't care less about promoting the town, or adding Westminster as a legitimate Canadian destination for mail.

**DOES NOT EXIST:** "Westminster, Ontario does not exist," says Tom Dalby, manager of media affairs for the Huron division of Canada Post. "Westminster" does not appear in approved

Canadian postal vocabulary. The name can appear on mail but must be accompanied by the names of existing post offices in Lambeth, Glanworth, London and St. Thomas.

Both the town and the post office have outlined their positions in letters to Westminster's 2,800 households. And both town and post office telephone lines are busy answering queries from confused Westminsterites.

The town is holding an open house today (to which Dalby is coming) in a bid to end confusion. But it is clear two messages will be delivered to those attending.

The town and Canada Post seem to agree on only one point: that four basic elements must appear in each properly addressed piece of correspondence: name of recipient; whether it is general delivery, box number or rural route number; correct postal station (i.e. Lambeth, Glanworth); correct postal code.

**IF YOU WRITE**

Here are the two versions of an address for a mythical John Smith who lives in Lambeth.

**TOWN VERSION**

John Smith,  
2219 Jones St.,  
Box 1234, Lambeth P.O.,  
Westminster, Ont.  
NOL 1S0

**CANADA POST VERSION**

John Smith,  
2219 Jones St.,  
Town of Westminster,  
Box 1234,  
Lambeth, Ont.  
NOL 1S0

**FORMATS DIFFERENT:** But beyond that, the town and Canada Post differ dramatically on the format.

Westminster administrator Doug Stanlake said the town devised its version after consulting Canada Post officials. But Dalby insisted the town version is not approved by the post office.

Stanlake complained his staff is becoming increasingly preoccupied answering postal calls from town residents. The post office, he said, "is just not co-operating" with the town.

He charged the post office has been changing its position.

Dalby replied that the name of the existing post office (not West-

minster) must be immediately above the postal code to ensure there is no delay in mail that is manually sorted.

He said it would be "costly" to change the Canada Post system, which might have to be changed again in a few months depending on the outcome of annexation talks between the town and the City of London.

**MAINTAIN IDENTITY:** Dalby said Canada Post has a "long-standing tradition" of maintaining local identities.

He said the difference in the positions of the town and post office is important. "It impacts on the service."