

## **HISTORY OF WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION**

The establishment of schools in the Morden area began nearly a century before the formation of Western School Division. Wellington School District No. 59, later to be known as Thornhill School District No. 59, came into being on November 18, 1878, near the present location of the village of Thornhill. The Maple Leaf School District, later to become the Morden School District, was formed in February, 1881 and constructed its first school, the Maple Leaf School, on the northwest corner of 31-2-5w. The original Maple Leaf School was later moved to the Morden town site where the name has been

time only a few rural divisions, including Western, defeated the recommendation. Loss of revenue in 1967 and 1968 led to an extensive campaign by board members in all districts to obtain support for a petition to the Government for another referendum. Minimum requirements for a petition necessitate support by 80 percent of al board and 35 percent of electors. This support was received and the resulting referendum, held in April, 1969, was passed by a small majority. Western School Division was proclaimed a unitary division on May 1, 1969.

Despite the operating policy of the newly formed Division that the existing rural schools would be supported until their enrollments were below eight students, Glencross closed after the 1968-

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION AREA 1**

|   | <b>School District</b> |     | <b>#</b> | <b>Location</b> |         | <b>Formation Date</b> | <b>Dissolution Date</b> | <b>District Division Joined</b> |
|---|------------------------|-----|----------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Wellington             | (6) | 59       | NW              | 17-3-6w | 18/11/1878            | 12/04/61                | C. Thornhill                    |