

A. Wilkes built a distillery. This enterprise proved so successful that another was erected the year following by Wm. Keely. It appears these establishments were unable to supply the demand for stimulating beverages, for in 1832 a brewery was erected by Wm. Spencer on the site now occupied by Wickliffe Hall. It is needless to state that temperance societies had no existence in those days. In 1840 the Grand River Navigation Co. constructed a canal one and a-half miles in length connecting the village with the ports of Lake Erie. This canal proved of great advantage to the town. In 1854 the town was lighted with gas. In 1870 a complete system of water works was established. In the fall of 1854 the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich branch of the Grand Trunk Railway was opened to Brantford and in 1873 the Harrisburg and Brantford branch of the Great Western Railway was completed. The Brantford, Norfolk and Port Burwell Railway connects the City with Lake Erie. By means of these lines Brantford is connected with the several railway systems of the continent.

Brantford is justly celebrated for its public buildings which are chiefly built of white brick. The Court house and County building erected in 1853 at a cost of \$32,000 is situated in the centre of the city. Few cities in the Dominion can compete with Brantford in the number and beauty of its churches. The Methodist Church on Brant Avenue, St. Basil's Roman Catholic Church on Palace St., Grace Church, Episcopalian, and Zion Presbyterian Church on Darling St., are particularly remarkable as models of architectural excellence. Wickliffe Hall erected by the Young Men's Christian Association in 1875 at a cost of \$22,000, is one of the chief ornaments of the city. It contains a lecture room and gymnasium and is provided with a number of bath rooms open to the public. The library of the Mechanics' Institute, numbering about 3,000 volumes, occupies a room in this building.

The Ontario Institution for the Education of the Blind occupies a prominent site just without the limits of the city. It is built of white brick in the Tudor style, and possesses a frontage of 220 feet. The grounds include an area of 65 acres, which are in a high state of cultivation. The Institution was opened in May 1872 and is designed for the education of the youthful blind, and is not in any sense either an asylum or a hospital.