

Early Brantford Banks

Bank of Brantford

The Bank of Brantford was set up by an Act of Parliament of the Province of Canada in 1857. Peter Carroll was the president and J. J. Kingsmill was the vice-president of this bank which was located in the Kerby House block on George Street opposite the old Market Square. The first and only issue of bank notes took place in November 1859. The bills, including a \$4 bill, were printed on only one side by the American Bank Note Company of New York. Shareholders and depositors lost their money and merchants were left with worthless bills when the Bank of Brantford closed in 1862.



Bank of British North America

The Bank of British North America opened the first bank branch in Brantford in 1846. It was initially located on the north side of Colborne Street with James Christie as the manager. After the building burnt down it was rebuilt at the same location. In 1858 the bank moved to the southwest corner of Darling and George streets next to Zion Church. When the Bank of British North America merged with the Bank of Montreal in 1919 the building was torn down to make room for a new Zion Sunday School.

For more information:

Expositor October 1909 (p. 54-55 of PDF)
Warner's 1883 History (p. 153 of PDF)
Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 (p. 51 of PDF)

Bank of Hamilton

The Bank of Hamilton opened in 1902 on the corner of Colborne and George streets with J. P. Bell as the manager. A few years later the bank temporarily moved to 167 Colborne Street until renovations at their new location, 171 Colborne Street, were finished in 1908. For many years the Bank of Hamilton had an East End Branch, a West Brantford Branch, and an Eagle Place Branch as well as the main bank downtown. By 1924 the Bank of Hamilton had amalgamated with the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The Bank of Nova Scotia purchased the building at 171 Colborne Street in the 1940s. Holstein Place, built on this site in the 1980s, is part of Laurier Brantford University.

For more information:

- Expositor October 1909 (p. 54-55 of PDF)
- Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 (p. 51 of PDF)



Bank of Montreal

The Bank of Montreal opened in 1852 with William Muirhead, Brantford's first mayor, as the agent. The bank's first location was in a store on the north side of Colborne Street near the Lorne Bridge. Needing more space the bank purchased the Strobridge house on the corner of Market and Darling streets, turning part of the house into offices while the rest was used as the bank manager's residence. In 1913 they built a new bank at the same location. The Bank of British North America merged with the Bank of Montreal in 1919. In 1922 the Merchant's Bank of Canada, in business for only ten years, amalgamated with the bank. An addition at the back of the building nearly doubled the office space in 1951. Further renovations were done in the 1970s. The main branch of the Bank of Montreal is still located at 57 Market Street today.

For more information:

- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 54-55 of PDF\)](#)
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 153 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51 of PDF\)](#)

Bank of Nova Scotia

The Bank of Nova Scotia, located in the Cockshutt Block at 177 Colborne Street, opened in 1908 (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, June 18, 1908, p. 9) with J. W. Corning as the first manager. By 1945 the bank had moved to the building previously occupied by the Bank of Hamilton at 171 Colborne Street. Needing a larger building, the bank relocated to the corner of Colborne and Market streets in 1948. Now better known as Scotiabank, the current building at 170 Colborne Street was built in 1979-1980, across the street from their previous location.

For more information:

- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 54-55 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51, 107 of PDF\)](#)



Bank of Toronto

When the Bank of Toronto first opened in April 1905 they were located at the northeast corner of Colborne and George streets. In 1910 the bank moved to 104 Colborne Street. From 1929 to 1936 the bank was located at 138-140 Colborne Street. In 1936 they moved again to a building at 108 Colborne Street. On February 1, 1955 the Bank of Toronto formed a partnership with the Dominion Bank to become the Toronto Dominion Bank. The branches of both banks, at 108 Colborne Street and 112 Dalhousie Street, were still listed under their new name in the city directory for a number of years. In recent years this bank became TD Canada Trust after a merger with Canada Trust in 2000.

For more information:

[Expositor October 1909 \(p. 54-55 of PDF\)](#)

[Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51 of PDF\)](#)

Brant County Bank of Canada

According to Sheldon S. Carroll's article, "The Banks of Southwestern Ontario", published in the **London Numismatic Society, 35th annual bulletin**, this bank was incorporated in 1883 but was never actually opened for business.

Brantford Loan and Savings Society

The Brantford Loan and Savings Society was established in Brantford in July 1878 as a stock company with \$150,000 capital. According to the city directory, it was located at 157 Colborne Street and J. Pollock was the manager. This business was taken over sometime after 1883 by the Bank of London which did not have a branch in Brantford.

For more information:

- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 153 of PDF\)](#)



Canadian Bank of Commerce

This bank opened in 1872 with J. H. Plummer as the first manager. It was located for many years at the corner of Colborne and Queen Streets. In 1908 the bank moved to a new building on the corner of Market and Dalhousie Streets (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, June 18, 1908, p. 9). The Standard Bank of Canada merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1928. On June 1, 1961 the Imperial Bank merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce to become the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). This bank relocated its main branch in May 2007 when they moved to 84 Lynden Road.

For more information:

[Expositor October 1909 \(p. 54-55 of PDF\)](#)

- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 153 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51, 109 of PDF\)](#)



Dominion Bank

The Dominion Bank opened a branch in Brantford on May 23, 1919 with John M. Ferguson as the manager. It was first located in the Courier building at 69 Dalhousie Street. The bank moved into a new building at 112 Dalhousie Street, at the corner of Market, on March 1, 1921 (**Brantford Expositor, February 18, 1922**, p. 17). On February 1, 1955 this bank formed a partnership with the Bank of Toronto to become the Toronto Dominion Bank. They moved to 58 Market Street when a new bank was built in 1978. This bank became known as TD Canada Trust after a merger with Canada Trust in 2000 and the downtown Brantford branch is located at 70 Market Street.

For more information:

[Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51 of PDF\)](#)
[Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

Harris, Cook & Company

Harris, Cook & Company, financial agents, opened for business at 132 Dalhousie Street in 1900. Lloyd Harris, a Member of Parliament for Brantford from 1908 to 1911 and a grandson of Alanson Harris whose farm implements company amalgamated with the Massey Company, was one of the owners. The other member of the firm was Christopher Cook who came to Brantford as the manager of the Standard Bank of Canada in 1886 and was also one of the presidents of the Royal Loan & Savings Company. By 1909 they had moved their offices to 46 George Street. After Lloyd Harris died in September 1925 (**Brantford Expositor**, September 28, 1925, p. 1) Mr. Cook continued the business until his death in November 1935 (**Brantford Expositor, November 18, 1935**, p. 6).

For more information:

- [Industrial Recorder \(p. 18 of PDF\)](#)

Imperial Bank of Canada

The Imperial Bank of Canada opened a local branch in 1906. The bank was located at 23 George Street before moving to 12 Market Street in 1911. In 1955 they moved to a new building at 50-54 Dalhousie Street. On June 1, 1961 the Imperial Bank of Canada merged with the Bank of Commerce to become the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. After the merger both bank locations were kept open for a number of years. The former bank building at 54 Dalhousie Street is now Hurryprint Imaging Centre. Now known as the CIBC, the bank's main branch is at 34 Market Street.

For more information:

- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 54-55 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51 of PDF\)](#)
- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

Merchants Bank of Canada

This bank opened in 1912 and occupied a building on the corner of Dalhousie and George Streets. It was in business for ten years before merging with the Bank of Montreal in 1922.

Province of Ontario Savings Office

The Province of Ontario Savings Office opened in 1922 at 6 Market Street with S. S. Clarke as the first manager. They moved to the former Standard Bank of Canada building at 136 Dalhousie Street in 1936. By 1968 they had relocated to 138 Dalhousie Street where they stayed until the late 1980s when they moved to 171 Colborne Street. The Desjardins Credit Union purchased the Province of Ontario Savings Office in March 2003 and it is still at the same address today.

For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51 of PDF\)](#)
- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

Royal Bank

The first local branch of the Royal Bank opened in 1912 at 137 Colborne Street with G. Batcheller as the manager. A few years later they moved to 30-32 Market Street at the corner of Dalhousie. The original building was torn down in 1951 and a new one was built at the same location. This building was completely renovated in the early 1970s. The Royal Bank moved to a new building at 22 Colborne Street near Brant Avenue in May 1998.

For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51 of PDF\)](#)
- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

Royal Loan & Savings Company

The Royal Loan & Savings Company opened an office in Brantford in June 1876 with Thomas Shenstone as president and William Watt as vice-president. The company was first located in the Tainsh building on Market Street. In 1882 they moved to a suite of rooms in the Commercial Block on the corner of Dalhousie and George Streets. They stayed at this location for many years before moving to 38-40 Market Street. The Brantford Trust Company, a subsidiary started by the Royal Loan and Savings Company, opened in 1908 with capital of \$300,000 (**Brantford Expositor**, February 13, 1926, p. 8). On January 1, 1927 the Canada Permanent Mortgage Company of Toronto took control of both the Royal Loan & Savings Company and the Brantford Trust Company and the business became known as the Canada Permanent Trust Company. The Canada Permanent Trust Company moved to 70 Market Street in the sixties. By 1986 it had become Canada Trust. Canada Trust merged with the Toronto Dominion Bank in 2000 and is now known as TD Canada Trust.

For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51, 94 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 54-55 of PDF\)](#)
- [Industrial Recorder \(p. 17-18 of PDF\)](#)
- [Warner's 1883 History \(p. 153 of PDF\)](#)
- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

Standard Bank of Canada

The Standard Bank of Canada opened in February 1886 at 134 Dalhousie Street. Christopher Cook who came to Brantford as manager of this bank later became one of the partners in Harris, Cook & Company. Renovations were done on the building in 1907 to increase the amount of office space (**Brantford Weekly Expositor**, June 18, 1908, p. 9). After many years at this location the bank moved to 136 Dalhousie Street in 1913. A second branch of this bank was located on Erie Avenue in Eagle Place. In 1928 this bank merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce which later became a part of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51, 106 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 54-55 of PDF\)](#)
- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)

Trusts and Guarantee Company

The Trusts and Guarantee Company opened in 1907 at 121 Colborne Street. By 1914 they had moved to 114 Dalhousie Street. This company was taken over by the Crown Trust Company in 1945. A couple of years after moving to 112 Dalhousie Street in 1980 the company became the Central Trust Company. By 1990 this address was vacant.

For more information:

- [Expositor Semi-Centennial 1877-1927 \(p. 51 of PDF\)](#)
- [Expositor October 1909 \(p. 54-55 of PDF\)](#)
- [Brantford Heritage Inventory Website](#)