

In 1894 a new brick Public School was built on John St. near the bridge. It is now the Masonic Hall.

In 1884 Joseph Michaud opened his first store on Front St. Before this he had bought from the Crown the lands east of Nipissing St. The store became "Michaud-Levesque" in 1887.

In 1885 the Moore Lumber Co. was cutting on both shores of the Sturgeon River.

In 1887 a forest fire swept into the village after destroying three big logging camps. The fire was arrested, it is said, sparing the Mimeau house on the door of which a cross had been chalked.

In 1894 the dam was put in and the first pulp-mill was started by Paget, Heath and Co., of Huntsville. Later it passed to Lloyd's then to the Imperial Paper Co. of London, then to the Ontario Pulp and in 1912 to the Spanish Rover Co., from which it was taken over by the Abitibi Co. in 1928.

The opening of the pulp-mill brought a new surge of settlers and in 1895 Sturgeon Falls was incorporated as a town. The population was 1500, one third of which was French-speaking. Mr. J.A. Levis became the first Mayor.

Mr. Roy Cockburn, son of J.D. Cockburn, has related some details about life in town about 1900. His father had reached here across the ice from Lake Nipissing after travelling the North Road from Muskoka with a horse and supplies. J.D. opened a furpost and later a general store and Roy tells how as a boy he put bear skins out in the spring sunshine and packed muskrat pelts into big sugar barrels. "Muskrats" brought 10¢ or 15¢ then.