



Ontario "*Yours to Discover*" Fall Colour Progression Report

Ontario Tourism
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Partnership
Corporation

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The **FALL COLOUR PROGRESSION REPORT** is produced and posted on www.ontariotravel.net each Thursday from early September to mid-October.

This is the first report of the 2016 fall colour season - **Thursday, September 8, 2016**

Ontario is the premier destination for those wishing to see summer's lush greenery transformed into a mosaic of magnificent, rich shades of red, orange and yellow. It is also harvest time, the perfect time to hop into the car and take in the sights and events. But there is so much more to Ontario's fall season than meets the eye! Go online – www.ontariotravel.net - and enrich your fall colour experience. This fall colour report will appear every week on the site. Discover great scenic lookouts, fall driving and hiking tours, special fall packages, community events, studio tours and more. Plan your perfect Ontario fall escape now.

Fall colours are just starting to appear in some northern areas of the province. In the Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma there's a 5% - 10% change overall, with the rest of the province reporting very little colour change. Although you won't see a spectacular show of fall colour just yet, there's a whole host of events and fall fairs to enjoy right across Ontario this weekend. See the list at the end of this report for some ideas, then head online customize your perfect fall tour itinerary.

Background on the Fall Colour Progression Report:

We have fall colour experts in every corner of the province that report on how the fall colour is progressing in their regions. It is, of course, ever changing and somewhat unpredictable from year to year. Shorter days, colder nights, sunshine, rain, wind, the spring and summer growing season and so much more contribute to how the fall colour progresses each year. We will keep you up to date so please check back every Thursday for the latest details.

ALL THE DETAILS FOR EACH REGION PLUS EVENTS FOLLOW.....

Northern Region

Thunder Bay area – less than 5% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

The lower vegetation is beginning to change a little bit, but the larger trees are still predominately green. The white birch trees are showing signs that they are close to beginning to change, the odd one is beginning to yellow. Routes along the Nor'Wester mountain range make for a lovely driving tour.

Sault Ste. Marie/Agawa Canyon – 5% to 10% Change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

A great way to take in the beauty of the Algoma region and see the landscape that inspired the Group of Seven is aboard the Agawa Canyon Tour Train which runs daily until October 10, 2016. Take advantage of lower summer fares until September 11th. Fall fares begin on Sept. 12! Reservations in advance are recommended by calling 1-800-242-9287 or booking online. For further information on this picturesque tour, or to reserve your tickets visit www.agawatrain.com Train tour packages can also be booked through Tourism Sault Ste. Marie's website which is www.saulttourism.com

Northeastern Ontario - 0% change overall

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

The fall colours are still waiting to show themselves in Northeastern Ontario, with the foliage still at full green. Fall fair season is here however, with the Anderson Farm Museum Fall Fair scheduled to take place September 10th just outside of Sudbury, in Lively. The New Liskeard Fall Fair will be taking place September 15th – 17th. After running for over 100 years, this celebration of fall is truly a Northeastern Ontario institution! On your way north on Highway 11 to the New Liskeard Fall Fair, make sure to stop in and go for a hike at the Temagami Fire Tower. This tower 1300 feet above sea level boasts one of the best vistas around for fall colour seekers, with multiple platforms and vantage points, and an incomparable view overlooking Lake Temagami.

www.northernontario.travel/northeastern-ontario/fall-festivals-events-in-northeastern-ontario

Central Ontario Region

Algonquin Park – Less than 5% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

At the current time, Algonquin Park's trees remain green with little or no colour change detected.

Parry Sound area – Less than 5% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

The fall colours are just beginning to show themselves, just a dash of red and orange on the occasional tree for the time being. The weather forecast for the weekend of Sept 9 to Sept 11 looks great so pack a tent or a picnic and plan a trip to one of the area's fabulous camp grounds!

Muskoka – 0% change overall

Gravenhurst – Less than 5% change - still green

Bracebridge – Less than 5% change - still green

Huntsville/Lake of Bays - Less than 5% change - still green

Bala - Less than 5% change - still green

Georgian Bay - Less than 5% change - still green

Pick up a Muskoka Map and follow one of the six driving tours. Muskoka Tourism - 1342 Hwy 11 North, Kilworthy, ON 1-800-267-9700 info@muskokatourism.ca www.discovermuskoka.ca

Driving Tours

- Muskoka Rd 17 from Gravenhurst to Bracebridge, you could stop at Muskoka Beach for a gorgeous view of Lake Muskoka, sections of the road are like a canopy.
- Hwy 117 to Baysville and Dorset, stop and walk along the river in the park then to Dorset to the Lookout Tower.
- Hwy 118 east Bracebridge to Hwy 35
- Hwy 118W to Port Carling, climb the hiking trail Huckleberry Rock, the pink granite rock cut overlooking Muskoka Lake, and loop through Windermere and Minett.
- Muskoka Rd 13 Severn Bridge to Torrance is a winding road, with lots of maple trees, stop and hike through the Torrance Barren.
- Visit Johnston's Cranberry Marsh for the harvesting of the cranberries starting September 27, 2014 and taking the wine tasting tour every day at 1pm.

Lookouts

- Lions Lookout in Huntsville, Huckleberry Rock near Port Carling and the Dorset Fire Tower in Dorset

Minden/Haliburton: Less than 5% change

Predominant Colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

Dorset Fire Tower, Hwy 35 north to Dorset, Twelve Mile Lake Falls; Buttermilk Falls; Leslie Frost Centre; Marsh's Falls on the Oxtongue River; and around Carnarvon

Barrie/Oro-Medonte/Ontario's Lake Country – Less than 5% change

Predominant Colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

Ontario's Lake Country is one of Ontario's most picturesque regions with radiant lakes and rivers and an array of activities for all to enjoy year round. See more at:

www.ontarioslakecountry.com/fall-driving-tours

South Georgian Bay area – Less than 5% change

Predominant Colours:

Green, the very first hint of colour is starting to show in the tips of the trees

Best viewing opportunities:

For printable maps of the Great Scenic Drives in South Georgian Bay

www.visitsouthgeorgianbay.ca/89p_great-scenic-drives.htm

Download the map to tour the region using the Apple Pie Trail www.applepietrail.ca/map
You will encounter cideries, vineyards, bakeries, restaurants, cafes, museums, orchards and country markets.

East Region

Prince Edward County/Belleville – 0% change

Predominant Colours:

Green, some hints of colour starting to show

Best viewing opportunities –

Driving Routes / Viewing Locations @ Peak Times

- Sandbanks Provincial Park
- Lake on the Mountain Provincial Park
- County Road 13 (from Richardson Lookout to Black River Cheese) – described as driving through a tunnel of leaves
- Victoria Road, Ameliasburgh

Cornwall/Thousand Islands – Less than 5% change

Predominant Colours:

Green, starting to see the first hints of colour change in the tips of the trees

Ottawa – 0% change

Predominant Colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

The leaves in Ottawa are still beautiful and green at 0% colour change, making now the perfect time for enjoying the warmth and shade during the final days of summer! Head out to the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum this Saturday for their Bug Day, and make sure to stop in at the Central Experimental Farm's Dominion Arboretum where you can still enjoy a variety of tree species' green, lush leaves!

West and South-Western Ontario Region

Owen Sound area – Less than 5%

Predominant colours:

Green, the first hint of colour starting to show in some trees

Best viewing opportunities:

Whether you're looking for endless outdoor adventure, homegrown arts and culture or epic food experiences, it's all here in Grey County: www.visitgrey.ca

Windsor & Essex County – 1% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

The trees and leaves are still pretty green in Essex County and summertime temperatures are in the forecast all week. That doesn't mean we aren't starting to celebrate the changing season! Thiessen Orchards u-pick in Leamington opens for the season this Saturday with Macintosh and Gala apples ready to be picked! www.thiessenorchards.com/ Visit Fort Malden National Historic Site along the waterfront in Amherstburg Sept 9 -11 for the WE Harvest Festival featuring live entertainment, wine, craft beer, and distilleries paired with food growers, producers, local chefs and restaurants. Feast on certified = at least 50% of products served are produced using locally sourced products! And the Festival of Hawks takes flight at Holiday Beach Conservation Area in Amherstburg this weekend with the chance to see thousands of hawks from the observation tower along with expert birders to teach the public about this annual fall migration!

http://hbmo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Hawk-Fest-Schedules_2016.pdf

Niagara Region:

Niagara Falls - 0% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Toronto and Region:

Burlington – 0% change

Predominant colours:

Green - At the Royal Botanical Gardens things are still green which means that after the drought of the summer the nature trails sanctuaries and gardens are providing a cool and verdant respite from the heat.

Caledon and area – Less than 5% change

Hockley Valley – Less than 5% change

Toronto and area – 0% change

Fall Events:

- Amherstburg - WE Harvest Festival <http://weharvestfest.com/>
- Barrie area – Barrie Automotive Flea Market www.thebafm.com
- Brooklin – Harvest Festival www.whitby.ca/en/residents/brooklinharvestfestival.asp
- Cambridge – Monarch Tagging Weekend www.cambridgebutterfly.com
- Cornwall area – Akwesasne International Pow Wow www.akwesasnepowwow.com
- Desbarats - Eat Algoma Food Festival in www.rainalgoma.ca/eatalgoma
- Dundas – Christie Antique & Vintage Show <http://christieshow.ca/>
- Dunvegan – Harvest Fall Festival www.glengarrypioneermuseum.ca
- Hamilton – James Street Supercrawl www.supercrawl.ca
- Ingersoll – Halls Creek Festival of Creativity <http://hallscreekfestival.com>
- Kingston – Ribfest and Craft Beer Festival www.kingstonribandbeerfest.com
- Kleinburg - Binder Twine Festival www.bindertwine.ca
- London – Lambeth & Community Harvest Festival www.harvestfest.on.ca
- Midland – 16th Traditional Pow Wow www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca
- Milton area – Turtle Island Festival www.conservationhalton.ca/events
- Mississauga – Tim Hortons Southside Shuffle www.southsideshuffle.com
- Muskoka - Muskoka Autumn Studio Tour www.muskokaautumnstudiotour.com
- Newmarket – New’Bark’et www.newmarket.ca
- Norfolk County - Norfolk Studio Tour www.norfolkstudiotour.com
- Oshawa – 35th Fall Art Festival Art Show & Sale www.oshawaartassociation.com
- Port Hope – All Canadian Jazz Festival www.allcanadianjazz.ca
- Prince Edward County – Red, White and Blues in the County <http://redwhiteandblues.ca>
- St. Catharines - Niagara Wine Festival www.niagarawinefestival.com
- Stratford – Kiwanis Garlic Festival www.stratfordgarlicfestival.com
- Sudbury – Jazz Festival www.jazzsudbury.ca
- Sylvan Valley - Sylvan Circle Artist & Artisan Tour www.sylvancircle.ca
- Thunder Bay – Fort William Fall Street Festival <http://fortwilliambusinessdistrict.com/>
- Toronto – Cabbagetown Festival of the Arts <http://cabbagetownto.com>
- Toronto – Taste of the Kingsway <http://thekingsway.ca>
- Toronto – The Beach Celtic Festival www.thecelticfestival.com
- Toronto – TIFF Toronto International Film Fest www.tiff.net
- Trenton – Scottish Irish Festival www.trentonscottishirish.com
- Wallacetown – Heritage Farm Show <http://backuspagehouse.ca>
- Waterloo – Summer’s End Festival www.summersendfestival.ca
- Windsor – Wheels on Wyandotte Car & Motorcycle Show <http://olderiversidebia.com>

Fall Agricultural Fairs are a great addition to your fall colour tour. Information on those underway this weekend can be found at www.ontariofairs.org

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