



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

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Corporation

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

This is the third report of the 2016 fall colour season - **Thursday, September 22, 2016**

Ontario is the premier destination to enjoy the Fall Colours. It's now officially fall, which means that the colours will start to change very quickly. It's the perfect time to hop in the car and take in the sights and events happening across the Province. Go to www.ontariotravel.net to 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.

The fall colour progression is off to a slow start this year across Ontario; with most areas reporting up to only a 10% change overall. The exception is Algonquin Park; which is currently reporting a 20% colour change. Traditionally, Algonquin Park's fall colour occurs earlier than surrounding areas because of the Park's higher elevation, up to almost 600 metres above sea level. This can mean the best colour is observed several weeks (or more!) prior to leaf colour change in places like Ottawa (70 metres above sea level), Toronto (75 metres above sea level), or even communities just outside Algonquin Park's boundaries. The leaves may not have reached peak colour yet, but there are still all sorts of reasons to get out and enjoy everything this beautiful season has to offer; with fall fairs, harvest festivals and studio tours taking place in almost every corner of the province. See the event list at the end of this report for some ideas, or head to www.ontariotravel.net for more!

Another great way to enjoy the fall colour is by hitting your favourite hiking trail! But, fall colour time is also hunting season and both hunters and non-hunters alike need to do their part to stay safe. Wearing blaze orange is a common way to be seen when in the woods - Be Seen, Be Safe. For more information go to <http://beseenbesafe.simcoetrails.ca/>

Northern Region

Thunder Bay area – Up to 20% change

Predominant colours:

Green and yellow in the birch and poplar, bright red and yellow in the lower shrubs and vegetation

Best viewing opportunities:

Colour is progressing slowly as there hasn't been any significant frost overnight yet. However, routes along the Nor'Wester mountain range are always lovely for touring.

Sault Ste. Marie/Agawa Canyon and area – Up to 10% Change

Predominant colours:

Green, with some pockets of red in the city of Sault Ste. Marie and in Batchawana Bay

Best viewing opportunities:

A great way to take in the beauty of the Algoma region and see the landscape that inspired the famed Group of Seven artists is aboard the Agawa Canyon Tour Train which runs daily until October 10, 2016. 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

Lake Superior Park – Up to 10% Change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

For hikers: Awausee – 10 km (45 min return to first lookout); Sand River (Pinguisibi) – 6 km (45 min return to 2nd falls); Orphan Lake – 8 km (45 min return to first lookout); Trapper's – 1.5 km; Peat Mountain – 11 km; Nokomis – 5 km.

For paddlers: Mijinemungshing Lake and Rabbit Blanket Lake are good choices (rental canoes available). Drop by the Visitor Centre (Agawa Bay Campground) for suggested trails and other park information; open 9 am to 5 pm until October 9th.

Pancake Bay Provincial Park – Up to 10% Change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

The Lookout Platform on the Edmund Fitzgerald Lookout Trail and throughout the Campground

Northeastern Ontario - 10% to 20% change overall

Predominant colours:

Green, with very small pockets of colour

Best viewing opportunities:

With over 184,000 square kilometres of geography, some parts of Northeastern Ontario have seen a slight increase of colour with red maples and yellowing leaves, while other parts are still predominantly green. But as we approach sweater weather, cool nights around the campfire and pumpkin spice everything; the feeling of fall is in the air. Starting next weekend is the Leisure Farms annual pumpkin patch festivities, happening every weekend until Halloween. Located in Sturgeon Falls, this is a family-fun affair celebrating the fall season with activities like wagon rides, a corn maze, haunted barn tours, and of course, pumpkin picking! Check here for the full fall event listings in the region.

If you're looking for more things to do and places to stay in Northeastern Ontario, visit our website at www.northeasternontario.com or call 1-800-465-6655 and find out more on fall tour package opportunities.

Central Ontario Region

Algonquin Park – 20% change

Predominant colours:

The overall landscape remains a blend of green and yellow with strengthening areas of bright orange, red, and purple.

Best viewing opportunities:

The Highway 60 Corridor provides easy access to the Park area dominated by the types of maple trees popular with keen "leaf peepers" - Sugar, Red and Striped Maples. You can also access the Algonquin Art Centre (km 20) and the Algonquin Visitor Centre (km 43.0) from Hwy 60 – both of which offer great views of the Park. This weekend should offer some good early season fall colour watching as colours increase in intensity. Algonquin Park's fall colours are growing stronger with each passing day. More yellow, orange, and red is beginning to show on the landscape hinting at the mosaic of colours coming soon. Typically, late September to early October offers the best maple viewing, while early to mid-October offer the best poplar (aspen) colour. Latest images and live webcam views can be seen at www.algonquinpark.on.ca

Parry Sound area – Up to 10% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

The fall colours are just beginning to show themselves, colours on the Hwy 400 corridor are further along than on Georgian Bay where there is just a dash of red and orange on the occasional tree for the time being. The weather forecast for the week of Sept 19 to Sept 26 looks pretty good so pack a tent or a picnic and plan a trip to Killbear!

Muskoka -

Gravenhurst – 10% to 20% Change - Green, with some orange, and a bit of red

Bracebridge – 20% to 30% Change - Green, with some orange, yellow and a bit of red

Huntsville/Lake of Bays – 20% to 30% Change - Green, with some orange, yellow and a bit of red

Bala – 10% to 20% Change - Green, with pockets of red and very small pockets of colour here and there

Georgian Bay – 10% to 20% Change - Green, with very small pockets of colour here and there

Driving Tours: 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

Top Roads to Drive in the Fall:

- 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.
- Muskoka Rd 13 Severn Bridge to Torrance is a winding road, with lots of maple trees, stop and hike through the Torrance Barren.

Best Fall Lookouts:

- Lions Lookout in Huntsville
- Huckleberry Rock near Port Carling
- Dorset Fire Tower in Dorset.

Barrie/Oro-Medonte/Ontario's Lake Country – Up to 10% 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 or
www.tourismbarrie.com/things_to_do/Fall_Colours.aspx

South Georgian Bay, Grey County, Blue Mountain – 10% to 20% change overall

Predominant Colours:

Green, with some small pockets of colour here and there

Best viewing opportunities:

Get into the Fall Spirit with Pumpkin Mania at Rounds Ranch every Saturday & Sunday until the end of October, from 11am – 5pm. Located at 1922 County Road 92, 7 Km East of Wasaga Beach www.RoundsRanch.com

For 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.

From scenic lookouts to fall canoe routes, from studio tours to apple adventures, autumn is an amazing time to visit Grey County www.visitgrey.ca/play/outdoor-sights/fall-colours

East Region

Peterborough and the Kawarthas – 10% Change

Predominant:

Colours: Green, small pockets of colour starting to show

Best viewing opportunities:

Explore the region and the changing colours with the Kawartha Autumn Studio Tour September 24th & 25th, this self-driven tour will provide you with an opportunity to see the beautiful fall colours while simultaneously exploring the incredible artists in the region with studios and galleries open to the public: <http://thekawarthas.ca/event/kawartha-autumn-studio-tour/>

Fall driving tours: <http://thekawarthas.ca/fall-driving-tours-in-peterborough-the-kawarthas/>

Prince Edward County/Belleville - 10% to 20% Change

Predominant Colours:

Green, small patches of colour here and there

Best viewing opportunities –

Driving Routes / Viewing Locations at 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
- Hwy 33 throughout the County

Cornwall/Thousand Islands and area –15% Change

Predominant Colours:

Green, starting to see some pockets of colour here and there

Best viewing opportunities:

High atop a granite ridge overlooking the historic Upper Rideau waterway and the Village of Westport, is Foley Mountain Conservation Area. Explore the mature beach, maple, oak and pine forests along the 9Km of winding mountain trails and don't forget to stop off at Spye Rock for a magnificent view of the lake and Westport.

Renfrew County – 10% to 20% Change

Predominant Colours:

Green, with widely distributed spots of colour

Ottawa – Up to 15% change

Predominant colours:

Green with hints of yellow and the odd bit of red in some trees

Best viewing opportunities:

Celebrate fall with this weekend's [Beau's Oktoberfest](#) in Vankleek Hill! On the way out of Ottawa, visitors and residents can also stop in and visit [Prescott-Russell](#) and enjoy beautiful bike routes and scenic walks to take advantage of our beautiful fall weather.

West and South-Western Ontario Region

Waterloo Region – 5% Change

Predominant colours:

Green, orange and yellow

Best viewing opportunities:

The air is getting just a light bit cooler and there are a few trees here and there that are starting to get a slight orange or yellow hue to them, almost not even noticeable, but that is sure to change soon. There have been a few mornings this week that there have been hot air balloons flying over the city. It'd be a treat to see the change in season from up there! Check out Sundance Balloons in Kitchener www.sundanceballoons.com/cities-pricing/hot-air-balloon-rides-kitchener-waterloo-ontario/ or in Elora/Fergus area: www.ontariotravel.net/en/package/Elora-Gorge-Wellington-County-and-Cookstown-Hot-Air-Ballooning/189

Windsor & Essex County – 2% Change

Predominant Colours:

Some green, burnt orange, yellow, maple trees almost 30% red and orange

Best viewing opportunities:

Strolling the streets of old Sandwich Towne will get you views of both the waterfront and the maples as well as the oaks, willows, and ashes as they start to change colour. Stop in to many historic buildings such as the Duff Baby House or the Olde Sandwich Baptist Church (pivotal during the Underground Railroad) during Doors Open Windsor Sept 25 and 26th <http://www.doorsopenwindsor.com/> . If you follow highway three eastbound from Windsor, the fall flowers such as asters and goldenrods are in bloom! Turn off on union avenue to take in the annual Ruthven Apple Festival Sept 24 and 25th at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens. <https://www.ontariotravel.net/en/event/Ruthven-Apple-Festival/203066>

Chatham Kent County – 1% to 2% Change

Predominant Colours:

Yellow and Green with flecks of red

Best viewing opportunities:

Take exit 90 off of the 401 and head south down Communication Road to the C.M. Conservation Area to see the fall flowers in bloom! Cross the bridge for a scenic picture of the leaves beginning to change along the water's edge. <http://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/locations/c-m-wilson-conservation-area/>

Just down the road, don't miss your chance to check out the Thamesville Maize Corn Maze located on highway 2 between Chatham and Bothwell <http://www.imaze.ca/>

Pinery Provincial Park – 0% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

While there are few maples in Pinery, the array of southern Carolinian Tree Species is sure to provide a rainbow of colours in the coming months. Pinery's 11 walking trails provide perfect opportunities to witness rich colour changes in understory shrubs and towering oaks, cherries, Tulip, Sycamore and Sassafras trees. Clumps of Goldenrod, and tall grasses like Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*) are starting to paint the park in fall earth tones.

Niagara Region:

Niagara Falls – 0% change

Predominant colours: Green

Toronto and GTA Region:

Burlington area – 0% change

Predominant colours:

Green, but the native wildflowers are looking stunning especially in the Kippax Garden in Hendrie Park at the Royal Botanical Gardens

Best viewing opportunities:

<https://www.rbg.ca>

Caledon and area – 5% to 10% change

Predominant colours:

Green with some small pockets of colour

Best viewing opportunities:

While you're out and about in the region, be sure to stop by the Bolton Fall Fair which runs Sept 23-25 <http://boltontractorpull.ca/bolton-fall-fair/> or check out The Belfountain Salamander Festival on Sat Sept 24 www.belfountain.ca/salamander-festival/

Toronto, High Park – Up to 10% change

Predominant colours:

Green, with some pockets of colour beginning to show in the Sassafras, Sumacs, Sugar Maples and Red Maples

Best viewing opportunities:

A great place to view the fall colours is at the sugar maples just south or just west of the High Park Nature Centre - 375 Colborne Lodge Drive. And be sure to visit the park on Sunday, October 18 from 1:30 - 3:30 for the free Fall Celebration. Join in on the opening of the celebration of OURSpace, High Park Nature Centre's new outdoor urban restoration site! Learn about this exciting project, help plant the very first native plant seedlings, and enjoy some fun family activities, snacks and music. www.highparknaturecentre.com/ai1ec_event/fall-celebration/?instance_id=

Fall events this weekend:

- Aberfoyle - Fall Special Antique Show www.aberfoyleantiquemarket.com
- Barrie - Fall Fishing Festival www.bfff.ca
- Belfountain - Salamander Festival www.belfountain.ca/salamander-festival/
- Brighton - AppleFest www.brightonapplefest.ca
- Burlington - Applefest Fall Fair <https://museumsoburlington.com/ireland-house/events/181--applefest-fall-fair-september-25-2016>
- Caledon area - Headwaters Arts Festival <http://headwatersarts.com/>
- Cambridge - Studio Tour and Sale www.cambridgecentreforthearts.ca/page.php?id=117

- Cambridge - International Festival www.cambridgeinternationalfestival.ca
- Collingwood - Art Crawl www.collingwoodartcrawl.com
- Collingwood area - The Great Northern Exhibition www.greatnorthernex.com
- Cornwall area - Apples & Art Studio Tour www.applesandart.ca
- Elliot Lake - Arts on the Trail www.artsonthetrail.com
- Elliot Lake - Art Among Friends Exhibition and Sale www.artamongfriends.ca
- Elora Fergus - Studio Tour www.elorafergusstudiotour.com
- Erin – Hills of Erin Studio Tour www.hillsoferinstudiotour.com
- Georgina - Studio Tour and Sale www.georginastudiotour.com
- Guelph & Wellington - Fall Rural Romp www.tastereal.com/events-2/fall-rural-romp/
- Haliburton - Hike Haliburton <http://hikehaliburton.com/>
- Hamilton - Apple Festival www.hamilton.ca/museums
- Hanover - Taste of Grey III www.hanoverlions.com
- McGregor - Mug Run & International Beer Festival www.mcgregormugrun.com
- Milton - Harvest Fall Festival www.springridgefarm.com
- Minto - International Plowing Match and Rural Expo www.plowingmatch.org
- Muskoka - 38th Annual Autumn Studio Tour www.muskokaautumnstudiotour.com
- Newmarket – Busker Festival www.newmarket.ca/buskerfest
- Niagara-on-the-Lake - Grand Canadian Steampunk Exhibition www.canadiansteampunk.com
- Norfolk County - Norfolk Studio Tour www.norfolkstudiotour.com
- Orillia - Free Kids' Fishing Day www.theorilliafishandgameconservationclub.com
- Owen Sound - Ribfest & Music Festival www.bwgeventsgroup.org/event/owensound-ribfest
- Peterborough & area - 32nd Kawartha Autumn Studio Tour www.agp.on.ca/studiotour/
- Picton - TASTE Community Grown www.tastecommunitygrown.com
- Prince Edward County - Studio & Gallery Tour www.pecstudiotour.com
- Prescott-Russell - ARTour 2016 www.artour.ca
- Ruthven - Apple Festival <http://communitylivingessex.org/ruthven-apple-festival>
- St. Catharines - Niagara Wine Festival www.niagarawinefestival.com
- Toronto - in/future - Festival of Art and Music www.infuture.ca
- Tweed & area - Studio Tour www.tweedstudiotour.org
- Victoria County - 31st Annual Studio Tour <http://victoriacountystudiotour.com/>
- Waterloo - Mary-Allen Studio Tour www.maryallentour.com
- Wellesley - 41st Annual Apple Butter & Cheese Festival www.wellesleyabcfestival.ca
- Windsor Essex - Open Studio Tour <http://weopenstudiotour.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

Contact: Kevin Forget, Ontario Travel Information Centre

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