

Fall Colour Progression Report



Ontario is the premier destination to witness the annual autumn spectacle of summer leaves changing to rich and vibrant shades of red, orange, and yellow. It's also harvest time - a perfect time to discover local flavours at farmers markets, orchards and pumpkin patches. Learn about great scenic lookouts, fall driving and hiking tours, and where leaves are changing across the province. The Fall Colour Progression Report is produced weekly and posted on www.ontariotravel.net from early September to late October and is designed to help you discover the best of Ontario's ever-changing fall landscape.

Thursday, September 26 – Colours are changing across most of the province this week. Recent wind in some areas has caused a slight leaf-fall to occur, and other areas are reporting a change in colour of 50%. Check back weekly for updates on where you can see this annual phenomenon in Ontario.

Northern Ontario

Thunder Bay Area

Percentage of Colour Change: 30-40%

Predominant Colours: mostly yellow from the birches and poplars; mountain maples and some of the lower vegetation have gone to deeper red/orange colours; larches are starting to change to fall colouration from their summer green

Best way to view colours: It's a beautiful time of year for hiking at [Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park](#) or at the [Lakehead Regional Conservation Authority](#). Take in the fall colours from the observation points along the hiking trails at [Sleeping Giant Provincial Park](#). Driving along the highways and side roads provide opportunities to easily view the changing colours of the countryside.

Sault Ste. Marie / Agawa Canyon

Percentage of Colour Change: 40-50% (up to 80% along the Agawa Canyon Train Tour route) with some leaf fall due to heavy rain/wind in the last few days

Predominant Colours: oranges and yellows are most evident; reds are beginning to emerge

Best way to view colours: Enjoy the beauty of the Algoma region in the fall by taking [the Agawa Canyon train tour](#). View the landscape that inspired the famous Group of Seven! Book early to avoid disappointment. And the [Elliot Lake Arts on the Trail](#) is always a great way to take in the fall colours.

Central Ontario

Muskoka

Percentage of Colour Change:

Gravenhurst: 20-30% Slight increase in colour - green still prominent dull reds and oranges

Bracebridge: 20-30% - Slight increase in colour - green still prominent dull yellow

Huntsville / Lake of Bays: 20-30% Slight increase in colour - green still prominent dull reds and oranges

Bala: 20-30% Slight increase in colour - green still prominent – dull colours with some bright pockets

Georgian Bay: 20-30% - Slight increase in colour - green still prominent – yellows and oranges

Best way to view colours: Pick up a Muskoka Map from [Muskoka Tourism](#) and follow one of the six great driving tours. Or enjoy the views from one of the these Fall lookouts: [Lions Lookout in Huntsville](#), [Huckleberry Rock near Port Carling](#) and the [Dorset Fire Tower in Dorset](#). **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.

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Grey County

Percentage of Colour Change: 20-30%

Predominant Colours: pockets of colour showing in the Blue Mountain and Owen Sound areas

Best way to view colours: The salmon are starting to jump! Hike the [Owen Sound Salmon Tour](#). Or enjoy the fall colours while cycling or driving along on one of the following routes:

- The [Beaver Valley Fall Driving Route](#) is a great introduction to the region's autumn beauty
- The [Blue Mountain Fall Driving Route](#) offers both colour and adventure as you explore the Blue Mountain and Scenic Caves Route
- The [Owen Sound to Wiarton Fall Driving Route](#), offers waterfalls, colourful scenic lookouts, jumping salmon and amazing food
- The [Southern Grey County Fall Driving tour](#), steeped in history, takes you past historic mill dams, longstanding breweries and organic orchards as you tour the countryside to take in the fall colours

Simcoe County

Percentage of Colour Change: 20-30%

Predominant Colours: pockets of orange and yellow can be seen through the County

Best way to view colours: Hike one of the many trails at [Hardwood Ski and Bike](#). Enjoy the sights from the viewing platform at the top of the Lookout Trail at [Earl Rowe Provincial Park](#). Or tour one of many [hiking](#) or [cycling](#) or [driving](#) trails in [Ontario's Lake Country](#).

Haliburton Highlands

Percentage of Colour Change: 35%

Predominant Colours: predominantly green with pockets of colour

Best way to view colours: Explore [Buttermilk Falls](#) during peak colour season to see beautiful fall colours.

Kawartha Lakes

Percentage of Colour Change: 20-30%

Predominant Colours: dull yellow and orange

Best way to view colours: See the changing colours while exploring Kawartha Lakes on their [Arts & Heritage Trail and Scenic Drives](#).

Eastern Ontario

Prince Edward Country

Percentage of Colour Change: 20-30%

Predominant Colours: small pockets of yellow, orange and hints of red are starting to appear

Best way to view colours: Follow this driving route ([map link here!](#)) to enjoy the fall colours in Picton. Grab a hot local apple cider and fall treat from one of the many coffee shops that dot Picton Main Street and start your day with a walk through [Delhi Park](#) and [Glenwood Cemetery](#). Hit the road and head south to [Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area](#). Stop in for stunning fall views and a walk or hike on trails for all ages and stages, including an accessible trail. Drive around Macaulay Mountain Conservation Area and up to [Millennium Lookout](#) on CR 22 for views of Picton and the surrounding area. Head up to CR1 and pass [Camp Picton](#) – a former Air Training Base and the location of this year's [Taste Community Grown](#) event. Take the scenic route back to Picton – CR 1 to Tripp Road then back south on Old Belleville Road to Picton Main Street - for farm fresh views for days and fall-themed farm stands with all the gourds, pumpkins and just-harvested veggies. End your day at one of Picton's many [pubs](#), [restaurants](#) or [breweries](#).

Ottawa Valley / Renfrew County

Percentage of Colour Change:

Madawaska & Bonnechere Valleys: 30-40%

Ottawa River (Arnprior-Renfrew-Pembroke-Petawawa-Deep River): 20– 30%

Predominant Colours: pockets of red, yellow and orange appearing

Best way to view colours: Choose from [five scenic driving routes](#) that wind through rural landscapes and small towns and village. Follow the shores of the [mighty Ottawa River from Arnprior to Deux Rivières](#) for picturesque views of the Laurentian Mountains. Enjoy the last days of fall motorcycle touring with a [ride through the Highlands](#).

Ottawa Area

Percentage of Colour Change: 20-30%

Predominant Colours: predominant colours are yellow, green and a bit of red

Best way to view colours: Once colours begin to change, visitors can visit [Rideau Canal](#), [Gatineau Park](#), Contance Bay / Dunrobin, Cork areas, [Cumberland](#), [Rockcliffe Park](#), and the [Dominion Arboretum](#).

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Southwestern Ontario

Centre Wellington (Fergus and Elora)

Percentage of Colour Change: 10-20%

Predominant Colours: predominantly green with larger pockets of yellow, orange and some red.

Best way to view colours: This weekend, experience [Culture Days](#) in Centre Wellington – a great opportunity to explore the area in its fall splendour and take in free cultural events.

Leamington – Essex County

Percentage of Colour Change: 5% with slight leaf fall due to recent wind

Predominant Colours: mainly green with the odd yellow or red tree

Best way to view colours: Visit the [Ruthven Apple Festival at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens](#) and enjoy the autumn splendour.

Niagara Region

Niagara Falls

Percentage of Colour Change: 0 - 5%

Predominant Colours: predominantly green with a little bright red and orange on the odd tree

Best way to view colours: Take a drive along the Niagara Parkway from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Fort Erie, or along RR 81 from West St. Catharines to Stoney Creek.

Toronto & Area

York Region

Percentage of Colour Change: 20-30%

Predominant Colours: bright orange and yellow have started to pop

Best way to view colours: Head to [Bruce's Mill Conservation Area](#) in Stouffville and walk along the forest trail or zip through the high tree canopy at Treetop Trekking (open weekends) and view the changing maple foliage from higher ground.

Durham Region

Percentage of Colour Change: 10-20%

Predominant Colours: very small pockets of lime, yellow and orange

Best way to view colours: Enjoy one of 7 stops on the [Fall Apple Harvest Driving](#) tour and savour the sights, sounds and smells of the apple season.

Headwaters Region

Percentage of Colour Change: 20-30%

Predominant Colours: predominantly green; mostly rusty yellow and orange with some red starting to show

Best way to view colours Take a scenic drive up to the [Mono Cliffs Provincial Park](#) and view the colours from the top of the cliffs.

High Park, Toronto

Percentage of Colour Change: 15%

Predominant Colours: bright green; one maple tree has a sizeable patch of orange and yellow leaves while another tree is beginning to develop orange and yellow leaves

Best way to view colours: Park near the [High Park Nature Centre](#) and walk to OURSpace (located directly behind the Centre). OURSpace is open 24/7 and is free to the public. It features an accessible path, interpretive stops with accompanying signage, and our native savannah gardens. The space may need to be shared with High Park Nature Centre programs as we use this space as an outdoor classroom.

Burlington – Royal Botanical Gardens

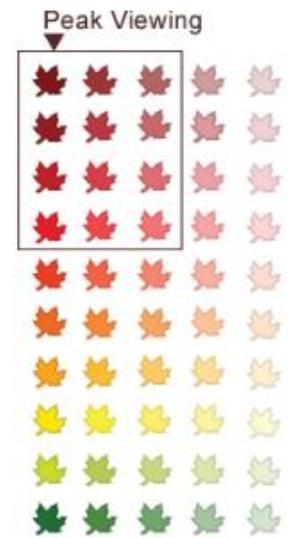
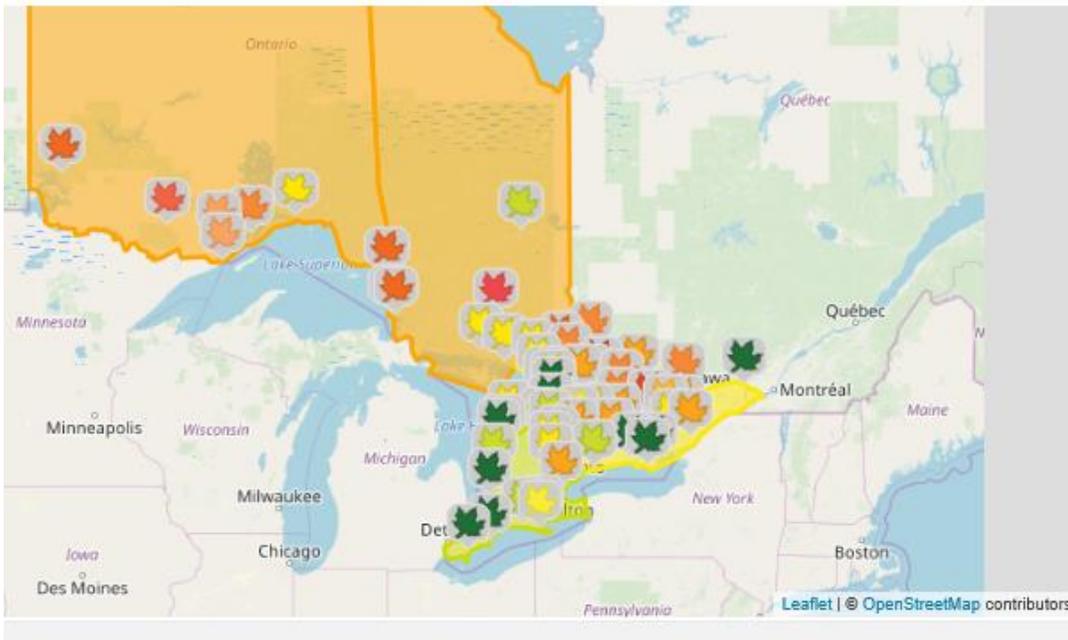
Percentage of Colour Change: 10-20%

Predominant Colours: predominantly green with pockets of red beginning to appear

Best way to view colours: The Rock Garden at the [Royal Botanical Gardens](#) is showing some beautiful colour changing with the Japanese Maple but the most changes can be viewed in the Arboretum with Chestnut, Maples and Yellow Buckeye trees showing the earliest changes in colour while acorns beautifully dot the landscape from the oak trees.

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Ontario Provincial Parks



The colour of the leaf icon is representative of each specific park

As of September 25: Algonquin Provincial Park is reporting a 70% colour change this week with a 10% leaf fall. Other Ontario Provincial Parks are reporting 40-60% colour change. For a complete Ontario Parks report including the best locations in the park to view fall colours, please visit the official [Ontario Parks Fall Reporting](#) page.

For more information, contact:

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