



Ontario, *Yours to Discover*

Fall Colour Progression Report

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Welcome to the fall colour report for **Thursday, September 14, 2017**. The **Fall Colour Progression Report** is produced weekly and posted on www.ontariotravel.net each week from early September to mid-October and is designed to help you discover great scenic lookouts, fall driving and hiking tours, special fall packages, community events and studio tours. Plan your perfect Ontario fall escape now!

Ontario is the premier destination for those wishing to enjoy the annual spectacle of 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 special events. There is so much more to fall in Ontario than meets the eye! [Go online](#) for more suggestions on how to enrich your fall colour touring experience.

The colours are starting to appear in some northern areas of the province. In the Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma there's a 30% change overall, with the rest of the province reporting modest 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.

Trip Planner and Suggested Itineraries

Get [trip planning inspiration](#) from a host of carefully curated experiences and trip ideas across this great province and customize one to suit your passion.

Background on the Fall Colour Progression Report

We have fall colour experts in every corner of the province that report on how the colours are progressing in their region. 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 all contribute to how the colours progress. We will keep you up to date so please check back every Friday for the latest details.

Details for each region, including fall festivals and events, follow:

Northern Region

Thunder Bay area: 5% to 10% 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: 30% change

Predominant colours:

Pockets of red and orange expanding, more evident - green beginning to fade

Best viewing opportunities:

- A great way to take in the beauty of the Algoma region and see the picturesque landscape that inspired the Group of Seven is aboard the [Agawa Canyon Tour Train](#) which runs daily until October 15, 2017. Book early to avoid disappointment. Call 1-800-242-9287 or go online.
- Edmund Fitzgerald Lookout at Pancake Bay Provincial Park
- Hiking Nokomis, Orphan Lake, Awausee, Towab and the Coastal Trail in Lake Superior Provincial Park
- Twin Bridges Trail in Chutes Provincial Park

Northeastern Ontario: 20 to 30% change

Predominant colours:

Slight increase in colour - green still prominent

Best viewing opportunities:

Fall colours are on their way. In addition to pale to bright yellow poplars, you can now spot purplish dark reds dotting Northeastern Ontario's landscape. Fiery oranges are beginning to light up alongside the changing red maples.

View the changing colours from a different perspective by hopping onto the Chief Commanda II for a relaxing, scenic cruise or a delicious dinner on the water. There are multiple options to suit your pleasure! If you're looking for a more active experience, take part in a full-day guided canoe excursion on the Abitibi River with Northern Spirit Adventures in Smooth Rock Falls. Guides are fully certified, no experience required.

For more things to do and places to stay visit [Northeastern Ontario](#), or call 1-800-465-6655.

Central Ontario Region

Algonquin Park: 20% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

Fall colour season is beginning in Algonquin Park! Sugar Maple fall colour is strengthening with each passing day and is currently showing a greenish-yellow colour. Typically, late September to early October offers the best maple viewing, while early to mid-October offer the best Poplar (Aspen) colour.

Parry Sound area: 20 - 30% change

Predominant colours:

Green - slight increase in colour - green still predominates

Best viewing opportunities:

The fall colours are just beginning to show themselves, just a dash of red and orange on the occasional tree.

Muskoka: 10 – 20%% change DONE

Gravenhurst: very small pockets of colour here and there - green predominates

Bracebridge: very small pockets of colour here and there - green predominates

Huntsville/Lake of Bays: very small pockets of colour here and there - green predominates

Bala: very small pockets of colour here and there - green predominates

Georgian Bay: very small pockets of colour here and there - green predominates

Pick up a Muskoka map and follow one of six driving tours. [Muskoka Tourism](#) or 1-800-267-9700.

Driving routes:

- Muskoka Rd 17 from Gravenhurst to Bracebridge; 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 the Torrance Barren

Best viewing opportunities:

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

Visit Johnston's Cranberry Marsh for the harvesting of the cranberries starting September 23, 2017. The [Bog to Bottle Tour](#) is available daily at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm, as is their wine tasting tour.

Minden/Haliburton: less than 10% 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: 10 - 20% change

Predominant colours:

Green with some yellow and gold starting to show

Best viewing opportunities and suggested driving routes:

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

- Ontario Lake Country route: Hwy 12 from Orillia to Bass Lake, Hwy 400 to Coldwater
- Oro-Medonte route: Bass Lake Side Road to Hwy 93 and into Craighurst, on to Horseshoe Valley Road and Orillia
- Severn Route: Hwy 12 to Port Severn, Town Line to Division Road, Sparrow Lake Road to Washago and then Orillia
- Rama/Ramara Route: start at Rama Road and watch for Osprey nests

See more and [download route maps](#).



Photo: Hardwood Ski and Bike Trails, Oro Station

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:

Download printable [maps of four Great Scenic Drives](#) in South Georgian Bay.

Download a map to tour the region along the [Apple Pie Trail](#) and discover interesting cideries, vineyards, bakeries, restaurants, cafes, museums, orchards and country markets.

East Region

The Kawarthas: 10 to 20% change DONE

Predominant colours:

Green with the first hint of colour starting to show

Best viewing opportunities and suggested driving tours:

Download maps for great [fall driving tours](#):

- Ring Around Lake Stony
- Harvest Season in Harbour Town
- To Burleigh or Bust
- Leaf it to Lang
- To Buckhorn & Beyond

Prince Edward County/Belleville: 0% change

Predominant colours:

Green, some hints of colour starting to show

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
- From Hwy 401 W travelling towards Picton, take exit 593, travel south on County Road 4 and west on Loyalist Parkway 33 for beautiful view and colours (20-30% change right now) across from the North Channel/Adolphus Beach at the tip of Prince Edward County. This route leads you to the Glenora Ferry which is complimentary to cross into Picton.

Cornwall/Thousand Islands: 10 - 20% change

Predominant colours:

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

Driving routes/viewing locations

- Thousands Islands Parkway
- Gananoque Boat Lines offer one and 2.5-hour tours through the islands. Sit back and relax, enjoying the colourful scenery.

Ottawa: 0% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

Canada150 celebrations continue in the nation's capital. Visit [MosaïCanada 150](#) until October 15 to enjoy a spectacular horticultural celebration celebrating the art of mosaiculture and a tribute to Canada's 150 years of history.

This weekend is your last chance to enjoy [Northern Lights: Sound and Light Show](#) which runs until September 16. A thrilling thematic journey through Canada's history, it combines digital technology with the architectural splendour of the Parliament Buildings, illuminating Canadian stories of nation-building, partnership, discovery, valour, and pride.

Ottawa Valley: 10 – 20% change

Predominant colours:

Green – some reds and yellows starting to show

Best viewing opportunities:

- Barron Canyon, from Algonquin Park Achray entrance
- Wilno Lookout

The [Stone Fence Theatre](#) continues its run of *Stick out Your Tongue and Say Moo* through to September 29. Discover what happens when a young veterinarian from the city gets his first job in the Ottawa Valley. This original musical makes for great dinner theatre as part of your fall drive.

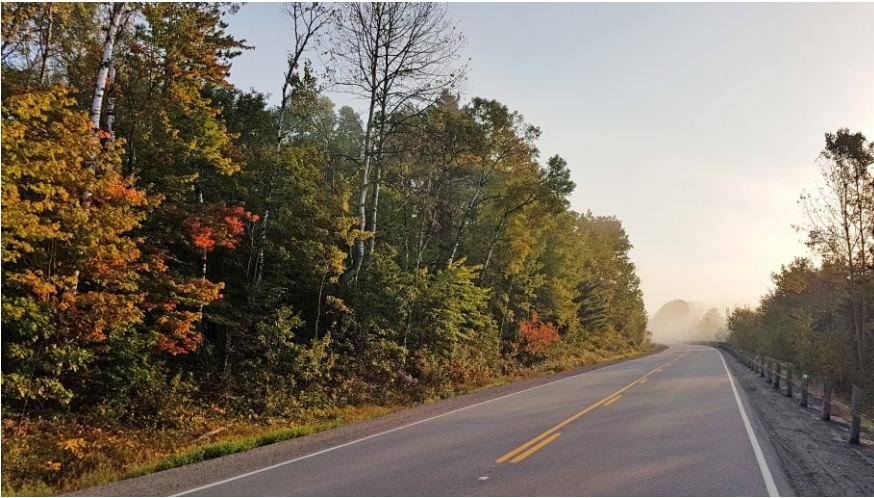


Photo: Round Lake Road (Hwy 58, Ottawa Valley Tourist Association)

West and Southwestern Ontario Region

Owen Sound area: 10 - 20% change

Predominant colours:

Green, with the first hint of colour starting to show

Best viewing opportunities:

[Bognor Marsh](#) is a beautiful hiking destination right now with the warm weather keeping lots of wildlife around.

Windsor & Essex County: 0% 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 is open for the season with Macintosh and Gala apples ready to be picked.

[Festival of Hawks](#) takes flight at Holiday Beach Conservation Area in Amherstburg for three weekends in September with the chance to see thousands of hawks and raptors flying overhead from the observation tower along with expert birders to teach the public about this annual fall migration.

Niagara Region

Niagara Falls: 0% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

Nestled high atop the Niagara Escarpment, [Queenston Heights Park](#) combines leisure and history in one scenic location. At the entrance to this historic park, visitors are greeted by grand carpet bedding displays that surround both the Brock and Laura Secord Monuments. The elevation offers panoramic vistas of the Niagara wine region. Pack a picnic or plan to dine at Queenston Heights Restaurant.

Toronto and Region

Burlington: 10% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Best viewing opportunities:

Plan a walk or hike through the natural areas and the Arboretum at the Royal Botanical Gardens and Arboretum; they've got [over 27 km of nature trails](#) to enjoy.

[Fall Migration Fest](#) happens this Saturday, September 16 before our feathered friends head south. Pick up your passport to eight different stops, find your way through the straw bale maze while impersonating a migrating animal and get up close with some scale-y reptile friends.

Caledon and area: less than 10% change

Predominant colours:

Green

Hockley Valley: less than 10% change

Toronto and area: 0% change

Some of the great events happening across Ontario this weekend:

- [Apsley Autumn Studio Tour](#) – Sept 16 – 17
- Barrie area – [Simcoe County Quilt Rug and Craft Fair](#) – Sept 15 – 17
- [Bracebridge Fall Fair](#) – September 15 – 17
- Bradford – [Studio Art Tour](#) – Sept 16 – 17
- [Burlington Applefest Fall Fair](#) – Sept 17
- [Burlington British Car Day](#) – Sept 17
- Caledon – [21st Annual Headwaters Arts Festival](#) – Sept 15 – Oct 9
- Cobble Beach – [Annual Concours d'Elegance](#) – Sept 16 – 17
- Curve Lake – [Curve Lake First Nation Pow Wow](#) – Sept 16 – 17
- Echo Bay & Area – [Sylvan Circle Art & Artisan Tour](#) – Sept 16
- Erin Hillsburgh – [Hills of Erin Studio Tour](#) – Sept 16–17 & 23–24
- Keswick – [Harvest Festival](#) – Sept 16
- Kleinburg – [Binder Twine Festival](#) – Sept 16
- London – [Pow Wow and Native Harvest Festival](#) – Sept 16 – 17
- Milton - [Milton Farm Craft Show](#) – Sept 16–17
- Norfolk County – [Norfolk Studio Tour](#) – Sept 16 – 17
- Ottawa - [City Folk](#) – Sept 14 – 16
- Sault Ste. Marie – [Bushplane Days](#) – Sept 16 – 17
- St George – [Applefest](#) – Sept 16 – 17
- Toronto – [21st Annual Toronto Ukrainian Festival](#) Sept 15 – 17
- Toronto – [Roncesvalles Polish Festival](#) – Sept 16 – 17
- Uxbridge – [Uxbridge Studio Tour](#) – Sept 16 – 17

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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