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, October 11, 2018 – Colour is peaking or close to peaking in most northern regions of the province this week. The Thunder Bay area is seeing beautiful colour. The Huntsville and Lake of Bays areas are also peaking this week with very little leaf fall. Central regions are reporting a 60 – 80% colour change while Southern Ontario remains under 60%. Check back on Thursdays for updates on where you can see this annual phenomenon in Ontario.

**Northern Ontario**

**Thunder Bay Area**
Percentage of Colour Change: **PEAK**
Predominant Colours: an array of yellow/gold with splashes or red and orange
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. For paved trails, visit Boulevard Lake and Centennial Park within the city limits of Thunder Bay. Take in the fall colours from the Thunder Bay Lookout Trail or the Marie Louise Lake Picnic Area at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. The drive along the Nor'Wester Mountains, just south of Thunder Bay along Hwy 61, is a great touring destination during peak season to see the bright reds of the sugar maples.
Fall Events:
- Enjoy the harvest season at the city's farmers’ markets and food festivals.

**Sault Ste. Marie / Agawa Canyon**
Percentage of Colour Change: Colour is still pretty good along the Agawa Canyon Train Tour route but is now seeing some leaf fall due to heavy wind and rainfall in the area. The Algoma region is also showing good colour with a 70 - 80% colour change with a 20% leaf fall. Predominant Colours: red, yellow and some orange is still evident throughout Algoma country
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! The last day for the train tour is October 14. Book early to avoid disappointment. You could also travel along the Deer Trail Touring Route.
Fall Events:
- Algoma Fall Festival, until October 28
- Agawa Canyon train tour

**Northeastern Ontario**
Percentage of Colour Change: 75 - 80%
Predominant Colours: lots of yellow and orange with some bright red in sections; some very small pockets of green are still visible
Best way to view colours: Check out this list of guided tours in Northeastern Ontario. Or review these great lists: Fall Hiking Trails and Scenic Fall Drives. Regional favourites include the Crack and Chikanishing at Killarney Provincial Park and High Falls in North Bay.
Fall Events:
- Dynamic Earth Pumpkinfoire, until October 28
- Chapleau Arts and Crafts Fall Fair - October 13-14
- Espanola Fibre Arts Festival – October 17 - 21
- Annual Northern Ontario Expo Halloween Bash, Timmins, October 27

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Central Ontario

**Fall Colour Progression Report**

**Muskoka**

Percentage of Colour Change:
- Gravenhurst: 60 - 70% - close to three quarters of trees now coloured
- Bracebridge: 60 - 70% - close to three quarters of trees now coloured
- Huntsville/Lake of Bays: PEAK - no green on trees and very little leaf fall - the ultimate colour!
- Bala: 60 - 70% - close to three quarters of trees now coloured

Georgian Bay: 60 - 70% - close to three quarters of trees now coloured

Predominant Colours: orange, red and yellow

Best way to view colours: Get a great view from one of these Muskoka lookouts:
- **Lions Lookout** in Huntsville
- **Huckleberry Rock** near Port Carling
- **Dorset Scenic Lookout Tower & Trail**.

Take a drive on one of the following driving routes:
- Muskoka Rd 17 from Gravenhurst to Bracebridge – sections of the road are like a canopy. Stop at Muskoka Beach for a gorgeous view of Lake Muskoka.
- Hwy 117 to Baysville and Dorset – stop and walk along the river in the park then head to the lookout tower in Dorset
- Hwy 118 East – Bracebridge to Hwy 35
- Muskoka Rd 13 – Severn Bridge to Torrance offers a winding road with lots of maple trees. Stop and hike through the **Torrance Barren**.

Or pick up a Muskoka Map from Muskoka Tourism and follow their six great driving tours.

Fall Events:
- [Cranberry Harvest](#), Bala, until October 31
- [34th Bala Cranberry Festival](#), October 12 – 14

**Parry Sound**

Percentage of Colour Change: 70 - 80%
Predominant Colours: large pockets of orange and yellow

Best way to view colours: Check out the colours on the **Island Queen Cruise**, with [Georgian Bay Airways](#), or at Killbear Provincial Park. You can also explore Tower Hill Lookout & Heritage Garden or take in the sites at area golf courses: Seguin Valley, Parry Sound Golf Course and The Ridge at Manitou. Consider taking an ATV tour with **Bear Claw Tours**!

Fall Events:
- [Terry Little's Autumn Fiddle Fest](#), October 27
- [Fall Harvest Market at Tappattoo](#), October 26 – 28

**Grey County / Owen Sound / Beaver Valley Area**

Percentage of Colour Change: 70 - 80%
Predominant Colours: nice pockets of orange, yellow and red more evident; also seeing a tiny bit of leaf fall

Best way to view colours: Cycle or take a drive 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

Fall Events:
- [Butter Tarts & Buggies Fall Frolic](#), Southern Grey and into Wellington County, October 12-14
- [Apple Cider Pressing Event](#), T&K Ferri Orchards (Clarksburg), October 13
- [Apple Pie Trail](#), over 30 trail stops across Grey County year-round
- [Farmer's Pantry Pick Your Own Apples](#), Clarksburg, until late October
- [Scarecrow Invasion](#), Meaford, until October 14
- [Peeling Back the Layers: Apples in Grey County](#), Grey Roots Museum, until May 25, 2019

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Page 1 / 2
Central Ontario (continued)

Simcoe County
Percentage of Colour Change: 60 - 80%
Predominant Colours: big pockets of red, yellow and orange
Best way to view colours: Hike one of the many trails at Hardwood Ski and Bike where colours are beautiful right now, or hop on a Segway and tour some off road trails. 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.
Fall Events:
- Pumpkin Mania at Rounds Ranch, until October 28
- Pumpkin Festival at Chappell Farms, until October 31
- Halloween Festivities at Drysdale’s Tree Farm, until October 29
- Pumpkinfoire, Discovery Harbour, until October 30
- Fall Colour Excursions on the South Simcoe Stream Train, Tottenham, until October 14

Haliburton County
Percentage of Colour Change: 80%
Predominant Colours: orange and yellow
Best way to view colours: Explore Buttermilk Falls to view some great fall colours.
Fall Events:
- Wagon Ho! The Fall Colour Tour, Minden, until November 4

Kawarthas / Northumberland
Percentage of Colour Change: 40 - 50%
Predominant Colours: bright orange, yellow and red
Best way to view colours: Pack a lunch and take in the sites at Burleigh Falls, or try the Ranney Gorge Suspension Bridge at Ferris Provincial Park. Or cycle one of the many cycling trails in Peterborough and The Kawarthas. Nice driving routes: County Road 6 from Sebright to Little Britain, or County Road 45 from Sebright to Kinmount, or County Road 36 from Lindsay to Bobcaygeon then County Road 8 from Bobcaygeon to Fenelon Falls
Fall Events:
- Keene Pumpkin Festival, October 12 – 13
- PumpkinFest at Buckhorn Berry Farm, October 12 -13, 20 – 21, & 27 - 28

Eastern Ontario

Cornwall / Thousand Islands / Kingston
Percentage of Colour Change: 30%
Predominant Colours: green is beginning to fade; pockets of colour expanding
Best way to view colours: Take in the outstanding view high above Picton Bay as you enjoy a quiet picnic overlooking the edge of the Prince Edward Escarpment at Lake on the Mountain Provincial Park. Rent a kayak, canoe or paddle board at Thousand Islands National Park and immerse yourself in the islands. Or take a helicopter tour over the area for a bird’s eye view.
Fall Events:
- Pumpkinfoire, until October 28
- Thousand Islands Fall Foliage Lunch Cruise, Gananoque, October 7

Ottawa Area
Percentage of Colour Change: 40%
Predominant Colours: bright red, yellow, light green, orange
Best way to view colours: Explore some of the region’s scenic parkways or greenbelt. Gatineau Park is a favourite leaf peeping destination with hiking/cycling trails and lookouts, or check out The Dominion Arboretum with over 2400 varieties of trees and shrubs.
Fall Events:
- Fall Rhapsody, until October 21
- Saunders Farm Haunting Season, weekends until October 31
- Visit Ottawa Tourism for more great area events

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Page | 3
Eastern Ontario (continued)

Ottawa Valley (Renfrew County)
Percentage of Colour Change: 40 - 50%
Predominant Colours: bright yellow and orange with pops of red appearing amidst the green
Best way to view colours: Explore the colours via countrysdie scenic drives and cycle routes. Breathe in the crisp cool air while hiking Manitou Mountain in Calabogie or paddling or hiking along the little Bonnechere River at Bonnechere Provincial Park.
Fall Events:
- Taste of the Valley (Cobden), October 13
- Frewtober Craft Beer & Food Truck Festival (Renfrew) – Oct 13
- Showcase the Valley ATV Poker Run - Oct 13
- Wellness Weekend (Golden Lake) – Oct 18-21

Wellington County - Fergus / Elora
Percentage of Colour Change: 40 - 50%
Predominant Colours: large pockets of yellow and red
Best way to view colours: The riverside trails and scenic lookouts of the Elora Gorge, or The Elora Cataract Trail provide stunning views of the changing fall colours.
Fall Events:
- Fergus Fall Market Gift Vendor Show, October 20

Lambton County
Percentage of Colour Change: 20 - 30% with significant leaf fall
Predominant Colours: pockets of orange
Best way to view colours: With 115km of scenic trails, mid-October is the perfect time to strap on your hiking boots, pack a picnic and set out to capture postcard-worthy views at Pinery Provincial Park. Or view the Blue Coast Fall Bucket List for some great ways to enjoy the season in Lambton County. The St. Clair River Parkway is a very picturesque drive right now along the beautiful St. Clair River.
Fall Events:
- The Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival, October, October 13 – 14

Essex County - Leamington
Percentage of Colour Change: 10%
Predominant Colours: no significant colour change
Best way to view colours: Hwy 50 is a great driving tour to see all 18 wineries in Essex County.
Fall Events:
- Kingsville Migration Festival, Kingsville, October 18 – 21

Niagara Region

Niagara Region / Niagara Falls
Percentage of Colour Change: 15 - 20%
Predominant Colours: green beginning to fade; Niagara Parks have reported some colour change with orange and yellows predominant
Best way to view colours: Beamer Memorial Conservation Area offers one of Niagara’s most breathtaking and panoramic views of the Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario. Take a drive on the Niagara Parkway from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Fort Erie or view the sights from the Brock’s Monument in Queenston Heights Park. Balls Falls Conservation Area and Dufferin Islands Niagara Falls are two more great locations to see fall colour right now.

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York Region
Percentage of Colour Change: 40%
Predominant Colours: bright red, orange and yellow
Best way to view colours: Enjoy the fall colours along the self-guided York Temperance and Temptation route.
Fall Events:
  - Newmarket Group of Artists 10th Annual Artwalk & Studio Tour, October 13 & 14

Durham Region
Percentage of Colour Change: 40%
Predominant Colours: orange, lime and pomegranate red
Best way to view colours: Enjoy the fall colours along the self-guided York Temperance and Temptation route.
Fall Events:
  - Bowmanville Applefest, October 13
  - Fall Colour Train Ride, York Durham Heritage Railways, October 13 & 14
  - Great Apple Adventure, Clarington, various fall activities

Headwaters Region
Percentage of Colour Change: 55%
Predominant Colours: fluorescent orange, sunny yellow, rusty red; very little green left
Best way to view colours: Enjoy the fall colours along the self-guided York Temperance and Temptation route or take the shuttle bus from Terra Cotta Conservation Area to the Cheltenham Badlands.
Fall Events:
  - Headwaters Taste of the Harvest, until November 3

Caledon Area
Percentage of Colour Change: 80%
Predominant Colours: bright orange, yellow and red
Best way to view colours: Check out these suggested itineraries or head to the Cliff Top Trail at Mono Cliffs Provincial Park for a great colour viewing experience. Now is also a great time to check out local conservation areas: Glen Hafty Conservation Area, Albion Hills Conservation Area, Belfountain Conservation Area and Forks of the Credit Provincial Park.
Fall Events:
  - Terra Cotta Fall Festival, October 13 & 14
  - Pumpkinfest & Corn Maze – Downey’s Farm, Caledon, select dates until October 31

Toronto
Percentage of Colour Change: 20%
Predominant Colours: pockets of colour emerging throughout the city
Best way to view colours: Take a trip to the top of the CN Tower to enjoy a bird’s eye view of the city’s colours, or enjoy one of Toronto’s Discovery Walks - a program of self-guided walks that link city ravines, parks gardens, beaches and neighbourhoods.
Fall Events:
  - Toronto Ghost Tour: Fact or Fiction, various dates until November 3
  - Halloween Haunt, Canada’s Wonderland, Vaughan, until October 31

High Park, Toronto
Percentage of Colour Change: 20%
Predominant Colours: bright green, one localized but expanding bright orange/red area, and smaller pockets of orange
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.
Fall Events:
  - Un-be-leaf-able Fall Colours Family Nature Walk, October 20
  - Autumn Tree Drawing Workshop for Adults, October 21

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Toronto & Area (continued)

Burlington – Royal Botanical Garden
Percentage of Colour Change: 30%
Predominant Colours: green still predominates but pockets of yellow, red, orange, scarlet and purple are appearing more clearly in the landscape and garden areas
Best way to view colours: The best locations for viewing are at The Arboretum, and in the natural areas at the Escarpment Sanctuaries, Cootes Paradise Trails, and the Hendrie Valley Sanctuary.
Fall Events:
- Autumn Colours Tour, weekends until October 14
- The Great Pumpkin Trail, October 25 – 26

Ontario Provincial Parks

As of October 10: Algonquin, Kettle Lakes and Mark S. Burnham Provincial Parks are reporting a 100% colour change this week. Other Ontario Provincial Parks are reporting a 40% - 80% 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.

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