



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 the end of October.

This is the **final** report of the 2015 fall colour season – **Thursday October 29, 2015**

Fall colour touring season is drawing to a close.

The highest fall colour concentration is now in the southern regions including the Niagara Peninsula down through South West Ontario. You can head into the Essex, Kingsville and Point Pelee area up through Chatham/Kent to Sarnia continuing north along the coast to Grand Bend and Pinery Provincial Park across through Stratford.

Many areas are reporting quite a significant amount of leaf fall but the blanket of fall leaves add significantly to the beautiful scenic trails of the province. The forest understory still has colour, so hiking or cycling is a wonderful way to enjoy the fall colour experience now.

For all the details see the full report below.

To enrich your fall colour experience head to www.ontariotravel.net - you'll discover great scenic lookouts, fall driving and hiking tours, special fall packages plus details on events happening near you

Northern Region

Thunder Bay area – Past peak with 95% leaf fall

Predominant colour: brilliant orange/gold in the tamarack trees and of the green of the coniferous trees (balsam, spruce, pine)

Algoma - Sault Ste. Marie area – Past peak with 90% leaf fall

Agawa Canyon Train Tour has ended for the season.

Predominant colour:

Some colour is still hanging on around the Agawa River valley (Agawa Bay), especially in the understory. Tamaracks are taking over the show as their needles turn golden.

Northeastern Ontario – Past peak with 40-70% leaf fall

Best viewing opportunities:

Halloween is just around the corner and with it brings your last chance to catch a glimpse of the remaining colour of the season. For more information on Northeastern Ontario and Things to Do, Places to Go and Places to Stay, visit www.northeasternontario.com

Central Ontario Region

Algonquin Park – Past peak with 90% leaf fall

Predominant colours:

Yellow

Best viewing opportunities:

Brilliant golden with some rusty red colours are on display. The golden colours are found in the wetland areas with some rusty reds present on the landscape.

Muskoka – Past peak with 60% to 100% leaf fall

Predominant colours: Still lots of pockets of oranges and yellow colour and definitely still worth a tour especially the hiking trails.

Gravenhurst - 60% Leaf Fall

Bracebridge - 80% Leaf Fall

Huntsville/Lake of Bays - 100% Leaf Fall

Bala – 60% Leaf Fall

Georgian Bay – 60% Leaf Fall

Best viewing opportunities:

Driving Tours: Pick up a Muskoka Map at the Ontario Travel Centre on Hwy 400 North at Barrie, at the information centre on Hwy 11 just south of Gravenhurst or at Port Severn as you head into Muskoka.

Also visit - www.discovermuskoka.ca

Minden/Haliburton: Past peak, 80% leaf fall

Barrie/Oro-Medonte/Ontario's Lake Country – 100% changed with 80% leaf fall

Predominant Colours:

Yellow, orange, pockets of bright reds Oaks and poplars are yellow and rust.

Best viewing opportunities:

Some amazing displays of colour can still be found throughout the region and along the Georgian Bay shoreline. The leaf fall on the forest floor is golden and even the Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper are in wine-coloured fall splendor and this all contributes to a spectacular walk through the forest understory.

Barrie and area: www.tourismbarrie.com/things_to_do/Fall_Colours.aspx

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/article/fall-colour-tours-ontarios-lake-country

Collingwood area – Slightly past peak at the top of the Blue Mountains but some patches at peak at the bottom

Best viewing opportunities:

There is still a spectacular drive along Georgian Bay following Hwy 26. Head to: www.visitsouthgeorgianbay.ca/89p_great-scenic-drives.htm

It's apple harvest time and <http://www.applepietrail.ca/> has a map to tour the orchard and; markets which are packed with more than 20+ apple varieties and other fall harvest products.

East Region

Kawartha Lakes – Past peak with 20% leaf fall

Best viewing opportunities:

Fall driving tours www.explorekawarthalakes.com/en/experience/drivingtours.asp

Hiking any of the trails within the region is beautiful on a bright sunny day.

Prince Edward County/Bellefonte – 100% change with 25% leaf fall

Predominant Colours:

Bright reds, yellows and oranges, still lots of colour to enjoy

Best viewing opportunities:

The Arts Trail/Taste Trail is year-round program that features Prince Edward County's studios, galleries, restaurants, wineries, shops and more. Drive the spectacular countryside and meet the talented artists and gallery owners who make The County a beautiful place to explore tour and unwind. Get all the details at: <http://artstrail.ca/>

Countylicious begins Oct 30 and runs until November 22nd <http://countylicious.com/>

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)
- Victoria Road
- Ameliasburg Hwy 33 throughout the County

Renfrew County and Ottawa Valley - Past peak with 70% leaf fall

Predominant colours:

Still nice country drives and pockets of brilliant colour

Best viewing opportunities:

We have wonderful weather and road conditions now for automobile, motorcycle and bicycle excursions. Visit www.ottawavalley.travel for ideas of things to do, tourist routes, accommodation, attraction and events.

Ottawa/Gatineau – Past peak with 80% leaf fall

Best viewing opportunities:

Capital Hill and the parks in Ottawa still have a bright display and rural Ottawa including the surrounding areas of Eastern Ontario offer fascinating and fun sites, attractions and activities. See more at www.ottawatourism.ca/things-to-see-and-do/capital-country-drives

Cornwall area – 100% change with 50% leaf fall

West and South-Western Ontario Region

Fergus and Elora (Centre Wellington) – 60% leaf fall

Predominant Colours:

Yellow and orange

Best viewing opportunities:

Elora's Victoria Park is a great spot to view the fall colours that Centre Wellington has to offer, while you're there, be sure to check out Lover's Leap, The Tooth of Time, David Street Bridge and everything else the beautiful park has to offer. Then make your way into town to warm up at one of our fabulous cafes and restaurants. Round out your day by visiting our local shops and boutiques.

Fergus's Templin Gardens is also a fantastic vantage point to view the fall colour in Centre Wellington. Stroll down St Andrews Street in Fergus visiting the many wonderful cafes, boutiques and shops Fergus has to offer.

Owen Sound area – Past with 75% leaf fall

Pinery Provincial Park – 70% changed with 40% leaf fall

Predominant Colours: Burgundy

Pinery Tamaracks have begun to reveal their gold along the banks of the Old Ausable Channel and the Oaks have also begun to change. The towering, majestic canopies have begun their change into the burnt oranges, reds and browns of the Oak Savanna. This forest is unique to Ontario, and colours like these are only seen at this time of year! Throughout the park, the Silver Maples, Shagbark Hickory and Sycamore of the Old Ausable Channel floodplains have turned orange and yellow. Sassafras in the Oak Savanna have added brilliant oranges, reds, and yellows to the burnt hues of the various species of Oaks. Fragrant Sumac still speckles the understory with reds, oranges and yellows, while the ground-cover of Poison Ivy sets the brown leaves aflame with bright reds. In the Carolinian Forest, the Tulip Trees have revealed yellows on the broad, distinct leaves and the vines add layers of oranges throughout the forest.

Best viewing opportunities:

Paddle down the Old Ausabel Channel to see the diversity that Pinery's ecosystems offer. Or take an easy stroll on the accessible Heritage Trail to see the Black Cherries within the Oak Savanna. Hickory Trail will reveal species of the flood plain, like American Bladdernut and Shagbark Hickory, both of which have turned yellow. Riverside Trail is a great place to see the diversity of trees along the Old Ausable Channel, and has various spots to sit a while with your thoughts, a warm drink and a multitude of colours. Bring your bikes to pedal through the Savanna Trail and enjoy all the species together! The Visitor Centre will be open on weekends from 10-5.

Windsor and Essex County – 75% change with 15% leaf fall

Predominant Colours:

Oranges, yellows and reds

Best viewing opportunities:

Get out for a hike on the trails at the Ojibwa Nature Centre, Point Pelee National Park or
Rondeau provincial Park

Driving tours – <http://visitwindsorsex.com/fall-drives/>

Niagara Region:

Niagara Falls – 50% change with 20% leaf fall

Predominant colours: orange, red and patches of yellow

Best viewing opportunities:

The Niagara Parkway towards Niagara-on-the-Lake and Regional Road 81 along the escarpment through the Twenty Valley are both lovely drives right now.

Burlington – 80% change with 60% leaf fall

Predominant colours: orange and yellow

Toronto and Surrounding Region:

Durham Region - 95% change

Predominant colours:

Pumpkin orange, squash yellows and cinnamon

Best viewing opportunities:

Colourful stands of trees and long sloping landscapes lead to the Trail Capital of Canada in Uxbridge, Ontario! Begin just 10 minutes east of Toronto and take Hwy 401 east to exit#399 - Brock Road/ Highway#1. Head north (past Hwy 407) and turn right onto Hwy 47. Follow this highway past spans of horse pastures, hillsides and autumn golfers all the way to the 'Welcome' signs that will lead you right downtown Uxbridge.

Crisp fallen leaves are beginning to add charm to the shop sidewalks. Here you will find warm customer service, delicious restaurants, aromatic café's and beautiful storefront architecture. Turn at the town clock and head toward the heritage train in full service this weekend, or hike out on a geocaching treasure quest with the kids.

•Halloween Train Rides - York Durham Heritage Railway

<http://www.ydhr.ca/tickets/trips.php?cat=221>

•Uxbridge Healthy Kids Community Challenge Geocaching Treasure Quest

<http://calendar.durhamtourism.ca/Detail.aspx?Id=d7da1c05-7ecd-43fb-9a60-25f43e072f55&ref=%2fdefault.aspx>

High Park, Toronto – 50% change

Predominant colour:

Red in the Sumac, brown in the White Oak

Best viewing opportunities:

Just south or just west of the High Park Nature Centre located at 375 Colborne Lodge Drive. A great place to see the subtle colours of the oaks is the black oak savannah just south of the Bloor St edge of the park. *Please remember stay on the trails!*

Caledon and area – 100% changed with 50% leaf fall

Fall Events:

- Capreol** - The Terror Train 6077 <http://normhc.ca/silverstripe/main/>
- Elmvale** - Pumpkin Mania www.roundsranch.com
- Hamilton** – 94th Fall Garden and Mum Show www.hamiltoninbloom.com
- Hamilton** – Steel City Jazz Fest www.steelcityjazzfest.com
- Morrisburg** – Pumpkinferno www.uppercanadavillage.com/events/pumpkinferno
- Penetanguishene** – Pumpkinferno www.discoveryharbour.on.ca
- Sault Ste. Marie** – Algoma Fall Festival www.algomafallfestival.com
- Sudbury** – Pumpkinferno at Dynamic Earth <http://sciencenorth.ca/promos/halloween/>
- Toronto** – Boo at the Zoo www.torontozoo.com/Events/?pg=boo#evt

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