



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

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The **FALL COLOUR PROGRESSION REPORT** is produced each Tuesday and Friday during the beautiful fall colour season, in the province.

This is the report for **Friday, October 10, 2008.**

***This Thanksgiving weekend will be outstanding for fall colour touring!!!***

### **Northern Ontario Region**

In the far north western region of Ontario the colours are excellent. The drive from **Kenora** to **Minaki** is offering mostly bright yellow with pockets of orange and an 80% colour change. There is also a 90% change in the **Fort Frances** region with areas of bright yellow and pockets of red along Highway 11. Highway 71 is a nice fall colour drive as well. The colours will peak in this area this weekend. The colour is at **Peak** in the **Thunder Bay** region. The colours are vibrant with bright yellow and orange and some small pockets of bright red. The ash and birch trees are all changing colour offering bright yellow and gold. You can enjoy the colour while taking in the hiking trails at Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park. Cascades Conservation Area has many nice walking trails right in Thunder Bay as well. The **Sault Ste. Marie** and Algoma region is now starting to see the colours fade. Colours are still very nice featuring burgundy, orange, gold and red with about 20% leaf fall. Keep in mind a great way to enjoy the colours in the Algoma region, is aboard the Agawa Canyon tour train. It is always best to book your tour and accommodation well in advance of your visit. The train runs through October 13<sup>th</sup>. There is an 80% colour change, with bright red and orange the dominant colours on **Manitoulin** Island with the colour advancing to close to 80% change as well in the **Sudbury** area. The A.Y Jackson Lookout at Ramsey Lake is a great viewing location. The **North Bay** region features an 80% colour change with bright red, orange and yellow being the dominant colours. The colour is now well past peak with about 40% leaf fall in **Temagami**. The remaining colours have faded. **Killarney Provincial Park** is offering some good colour with an 80% change. The Granite Ridge hiking trail in Killarney Park is especially nice during the fall. The **Algonquin Park** area is an extremely popular fall colour destination. The highway 60 corridor is offering colour just past peak at this time. It continues to be a good time to tour the park. Dominant colours continue to be red, orange, burgundy and bright yellow. An ideal viewing location, during the fall colour season is the view from the observation deck at the world class Algonquin Park visitor centre. There are several hiking trails, with start points on Highway 60, that offer an outstanding fall colour experience including Track and Tower, Centennial Ridges, Booth's Rock and Lookout Trail. Ragged Falls, just off highway 60 outside the west gate of Algonquin, also offers an ideal viewing location during the colour season.

### **Central Ontario Region**

The colours will **Peak** in the **Parry Sound** region this weekend featuring vibrant red, golden yellows and burnt orange. Highways 141 and 124 are showing some excellent colour. The **Muskoka** area and across to the **Haliburton** region will also **Peak** with bright pockets of burgundy, red and orange. Ideal viewing locations are the fire tower lookout in **Dorset** and Lion's Lookout in **Huntsville**. Highways 35, 117 and 118 always offer outstanding fall colour. The various boat cruises of the 30,000 islands and the beautiful Muskoka Lakes are a great way to enjoy the fall colour season. In the **Kawartha Lakes** region the colours have reached their **Peak**. Vibrant red, rust, yellow and deep orange are the dominant colours in the area. The **Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls** area and onto the **Kinmount** region always offer some nice fall colour touring. Highways 35 and 121, in this region are offering some very nice colour. There is a 70 to 80% colour change across the **Barrie, Orillia, Midland** area and over to **Collingwood**. The colours should peak the first of next week. During the fall colour season, ideal viewing locations include the **Horseshoe Valley** region and at the top of **Blue Mountain** at Scenic Caves. The colours are advancing in the beautiful **Hockley Valley** region with a 70% colour change. The Airport Road area of the Hockley Valley is always outstanding during the fall.

### **Ottawa Region**

The colours have advanced quickly over the last week in the Ottawa area with a 90% colour change. The colours will **Peak** over this weekend. A walk or bike ride along the beautiful **Rideau Canal** is always a great way to enjoy the colours in Ottawa. The area parkways offer great fall viewing as well.

### **Eastern Ontario Region**

In the **Pembroke** area the colours are just past peak with about 10% leaf fall. Highways 60, 62, 515, 512, 514 and County Road 64 are still offering nice colour at this time. There is a 60% colour change in the **Belleville** region with the Loyalist Parkway, in Prince Edward County, a beautiful drive any time of the year but especially nice during the fall. The Taste and Art Trails, throughout the area are a great way to take in the colours of the region. The 1,000 Island region is reporting a 50% colour change with the 1,000 Island Parkway offering nice pockets of burgundy, red and orange. The **Brockville** region to **Prescott** is reporting some nice pockets of colour as well and a 60% change. There is a 70% change now in the **Cornwall** region.

### **South-Western Ontario Region**

The colour season has certainly advanced in the **Owen Sound** region with a 70% colour change. Ideal viewing locations, in this area, include Inglis Falls and Harrison Park. The **Beaver Valley, Kimberley** area is a very popular fall colour destination with the colours at **Peak**. Colours are bright orange and yellow. There are numerous lookouts along County Road 13 as you head north into the valley from County Road 4. The views are spectacular. The **Elora Gorge** area, near **Fergus** is always a great area for a fall colour hike. The area is offering an 80% change. The eastern shoreline of Lake Huron around **Goderich** is offering a 60% colour change with some beautiful pockets of colour and about 10% leaf fall. Further to the south west the **Sarnia** region is reporting a 40% change at this time, in particular the area along the St. Clair Parkway.

### **Niagara Falls Region**

There is a 30% colour change now with areas of bright yellow, orange and bright red. The Niagara Parkway from **Niagara on the Lake** to **Fort Erie** always offers an outstanding fall colour drive as the colours advance. A great way to enjoy the colours in the region is by biking or hiking the recreational trail that runs parallel to the parkway. The view to the north, along the Niagara River from the Brock Monument is always beautiful but especially nice during the fall. Regional Road 81 always offers a great fall colour drive.

### **Greater Toronto Region**

We are starting to see some colour in the Toronto parkland areas and along the waterfront. There is a 30% change at this time with High Park, always an excellent location, for a fall colour walk. Just north of Toronto, York Region has advanced to a 50% colour change with the Kortright Centre for Conservation, a great spot for a fall hike. The various conservation areas just north of Toronto including Bruce's Mill, on Stouffville Road offers great fall colour this time of year as well.

**Fall Colour Studio Tours** are a great way to enjoy autumn in Ontario. These tours allow you the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful fall colour throughout Ontario's countryside while perhaps visiting the many artist and artisan studios. These are self-guided, well signed driving tours that start and finish where you like. The following tours take place this Thanksgiving Holiday weekend of October 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>.

- Haliburton County Studio Tour (Sat, Sun)
- Images Thanksgiving Studio Tour, Barrie through Orillia (Fri, Sat, Sun & Mon)
- Blue Mountain Art, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour of the Arts, Thornbury, Meaford region (Sat, Sun & Mon)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Escarpment Studio Tour, Grey County (Sat & Sun)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kinmount Thanksgiving Studio Tour (Sat & Sun)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Artists Around the Sound Studio Tour, Owen Sound (Sat & Sun)
- Perth Autumn Studio Tour (Sat, Sun & Mon)
- Westport and Area Studio Tour (Sat, Sun & Mon)