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2012-10-03 / Local

Foliage routes in the Lakes Region

This is the first of four stories featuring foliage routes in central New Hampshire Local roads transform into scenic highways and byways come fall

By JOHN KOZIOL

jkoziol@citizen.com



LACONIA — This being the Lakes Region, which comes with a surfeit of spectacular year-round views, it's difficult to objectively rate beauty during the 2012 foliage season which is arriving locally in quick order following one of the most memorable and weather-perfect summers in recent memory.

The real challenge in the Lakes Region is not to find beauty in everything this fall, be it a lone sugar maple burning a bright red in an otherwise green copse of trees on a farm off Dana Hill Road in New Hampton, or the setting of the sun any given day on City Hall, the Busiel Mill and the Belknap Mill in downtown Laconia.

Commuters into Laconia who come down Meredith Center Road get several glimpses of the Belknap Mountains to the east; Cotton Hill Road in Belmont offers views of Lake Winnisquam and the mountains to the west; while

Gunstock Hill Road in Gilford, despite the name, has some of the best, albeit occasionally filtered views of Lake Winnepesaukee and the Ossipee Mountains anywhere around.

The photos accompanying this article highlight some of what can be easily seen this year as Fall enters the Lakes Region. **Local roads transform into scenic highways and byways come fall**