

# Parry Sound

## Making a beach

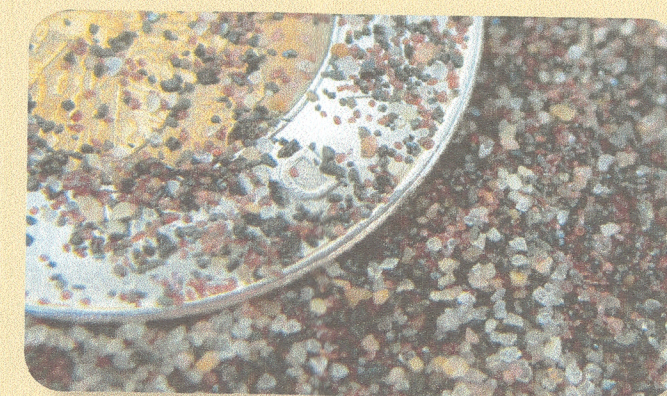
Killbear Provincial Park is famous for its beaches, in part because sand beaches are rare along the rocky shores of eastern and northern Georgian Bay. Geologists have examined the area and have identified a thick and extensive deposit of sand underlying the forests in the western part of the park. Geologists interpret this sand body to have been deposited by an ancient Ice Age river. Over the thousands of years since the Ice Age, streams have eroded this sand and carried it to the shore. Waves then spread the sand along the shore, creating the extensive beaches we see today, and winds have blown the loose sand into dunes above the shoreline.



**Stop 1:** The mouth of a small stream on Kilcoursie Bay near the Day-Use area. The stream carries sand eroded from forest soils to the bay.

## Shoreline stripes

The sands of Kilcoursie Bay beach often have stripes of cream, black and red along the shoreline. A close look reveals that mineral grains of different colour make up these bands. Geologists explain these stripes as the result of waves sorting minerals of different density (and colour). As a wave washes ashore and its energy wanes, the denser grains of red garnet settle first, then less-dense grains of black amphibole, and finally the least dense grains of pale-coloured quartz and feldspar.



**Stop 1:** (Left) Distinct stripes, or bands, mark the shoreline. (Centre) Close-up of bands made up of cream-, black- and red-coloured sand grains. Penny for scale is 1.9 cm in diameter. (Right) Close up of sand showing that it is a mixture of different coloured grains. Two dollar coin for scale.