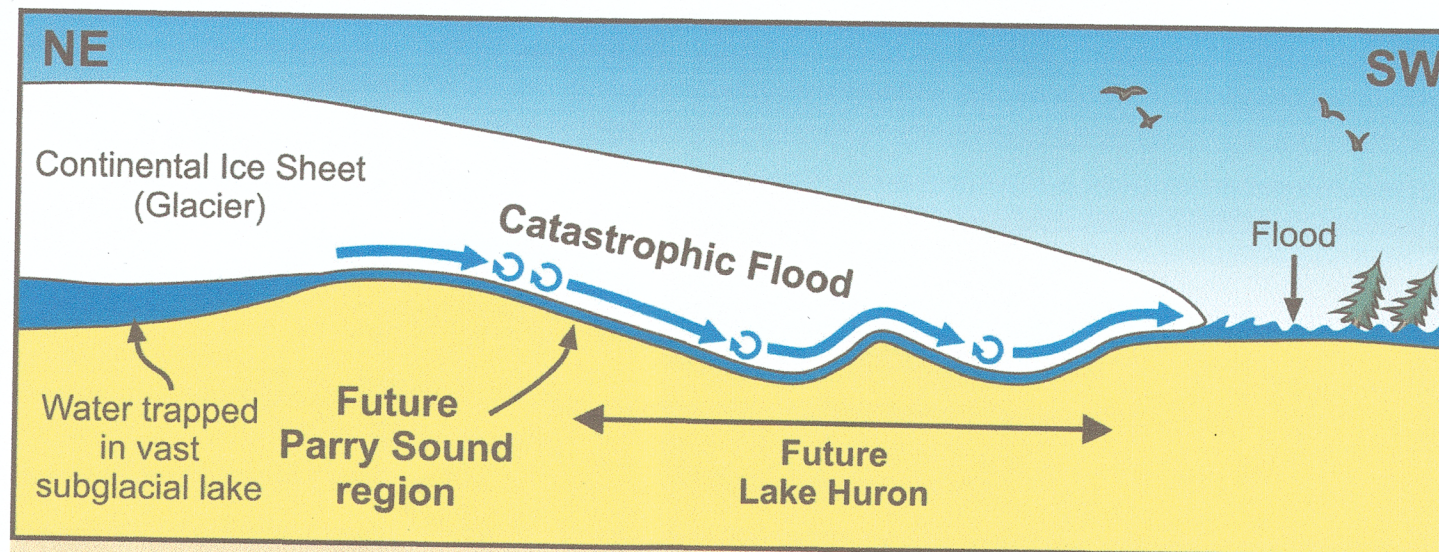


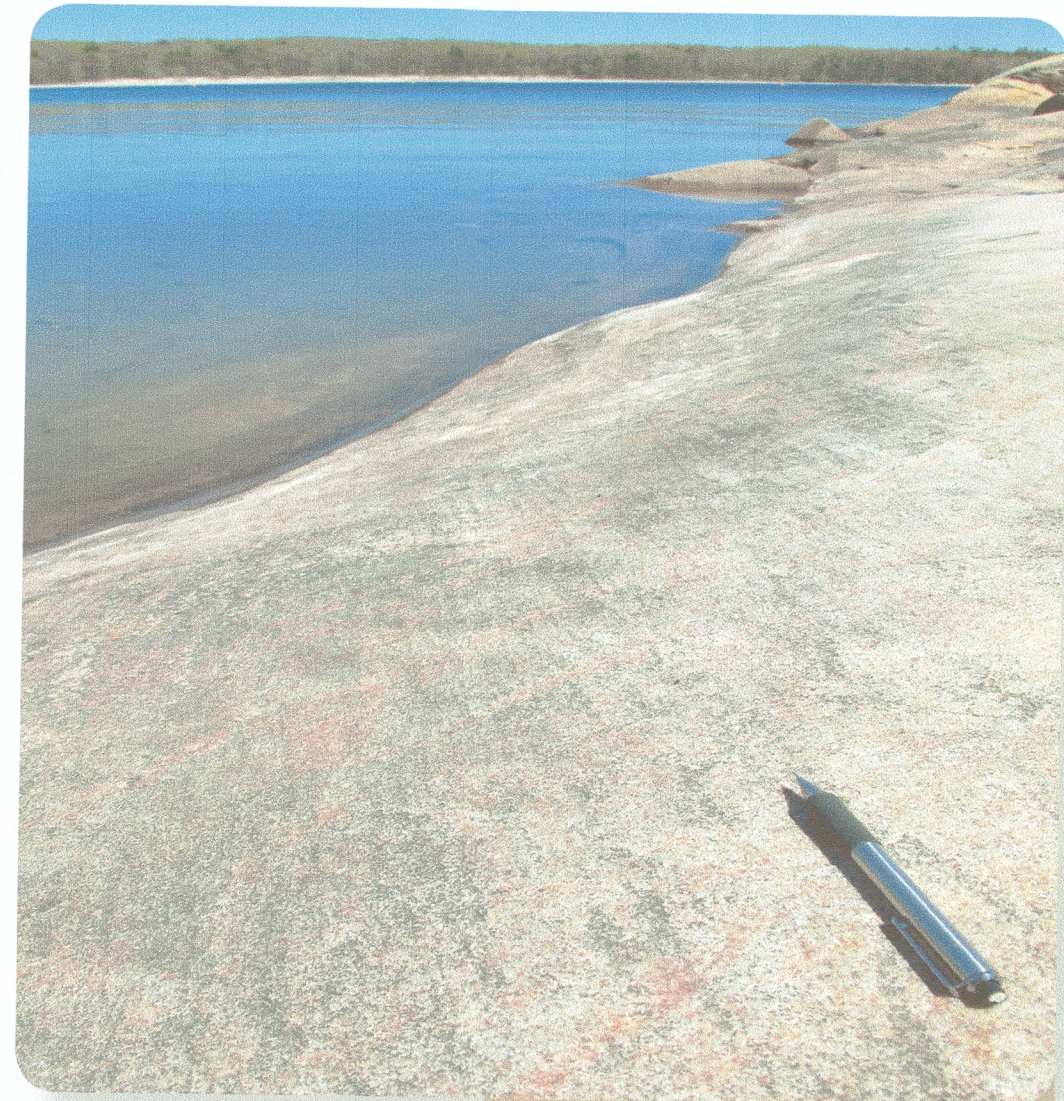
Parry Sound

A great Ice Age flood

What made the surfaces of these hard granitic rocks so smooth? And why is there so little soil on these rocks? If you carefully observe the rock surfaces along the shorelines you can see faint parallel scratches in the rock. These scratches were made by rock debris trapped at the base of glaciers that covered this land between 2 million and 10 000 years ago. However, geologists have been puzzled by peculiar features carved in the bedrock surface throughout the Georgian Bay area—large grooves, potholes and various streamlined landforms—features suggesting that an ancient flood, as well as glaciers, may have scoured the bedrock surface. A current theory is that a flood occurred during the final stages of the Ice Age when the water of a vast glacial lake, trapped below the continental ice sheet, was suddenly released and surged southwards along the base of the glacier. This catastrophic flood carried a turbulent load of sand, mud and stone that scoured the bedrock and stripped away the soil throughout the Georgian Bay region.



A schematic cross-section through the continental ice sheet covering the Great Lakes region during the catastrophic flood event. The height of the glacier ice and trees is greatly exaggerated.



Stop 2: A pencil is oriented parallel to glacial scratches in rock on the shores of Kilcourse Bay along the Twin Points Trail. Ice Age glaciers flowed toward the viewer from the north.