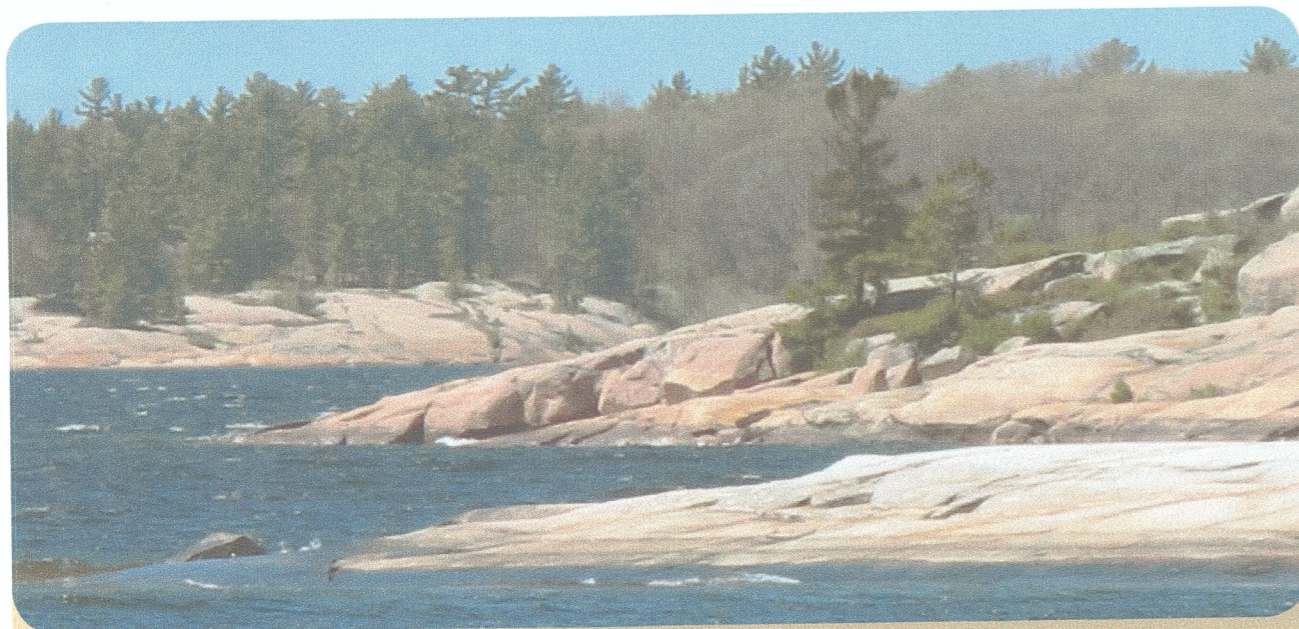


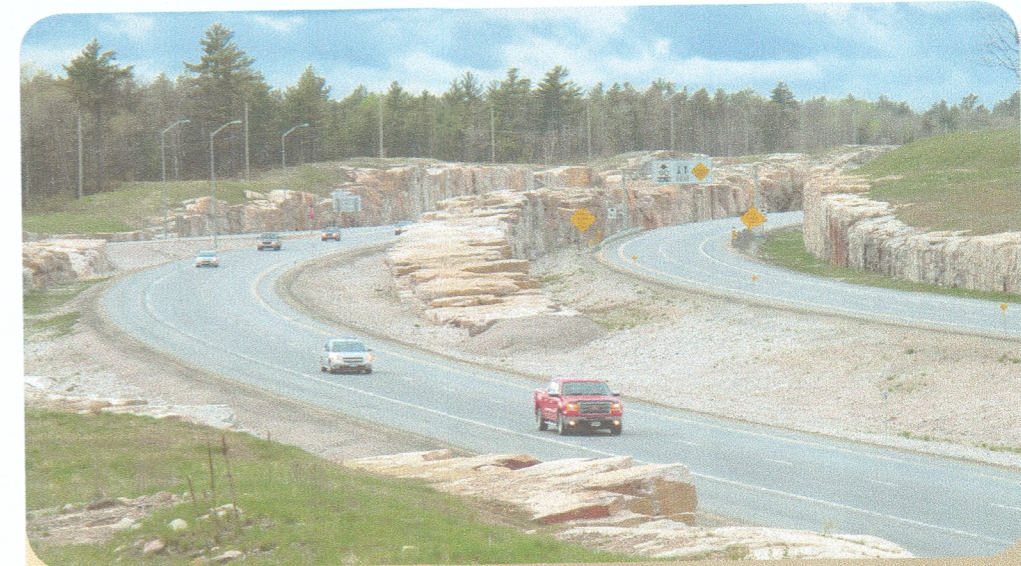
Parry Sound

Canadian Shield and Glacier-sculpted Gneiss in Cottage Country

North of Barrie along Highway 400 the scenery changes suddenly from the rolling hills with farms and fields typical of much of southern Ontario, to a rugged and rocky landscape of rock and forests. This change marks the southern limits of the Canadian Shield, Canada's largest and oldest geological region. This southernmost part of the Canadian Shield is the famous cottage country of Georgian Bay and Muskoka, about a 2 hour's drive north of Toronto. The Parry Sound GeoTour tells the geological stories of this region through a description of the scenery and geology of one of its most popular sites, Killbear Provincial Park.

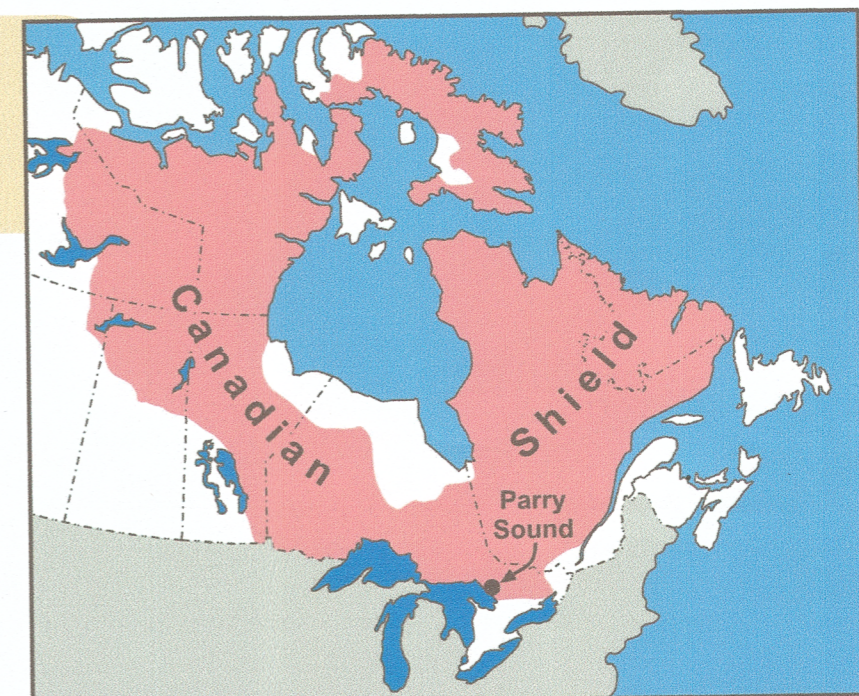


A typical Canadian Shield landscape in Killbear Provincial Park.



Highway 400/69 cuts through rocky Canadian Shield terrain near Parry Sound.

Canadian Shield rocks underlie a third of Canada.



Canadian Shield: the ancient core of the continent

The Canadian Shield is a vast and largely unsettled region of northern and eastern Canada, known for its rocky landscapes, thin soils, and abundant lakes and bogs. The Shield forms the ancient geological core of the North American continent and has some of the oldest rocks found on Earth. These ancient rocks are largely hard and resistant granite, gneiss and volcanic rocks that were formed more than a billion years ago.