

Subsequently, in Post-glacial times, this old valley of the Hayes river was filled with marine sediments to the level of the surrounding till-covered plain.

As a general rule the maritime plain, over which the marine sediments were spread in a sheet of varying thickness, extends inland from the shore of Hudson Bay to distances varying in different places from 75 to 150 miles. Across this plain a number of gravel ridges extend more or less continuously in a direction roughly parallel with the present shore of Hudson Bay, the more southern ones being constantly higher than the ones farther north. These ridges represent old shore lines of the Bay formed as the land rose very gradually to its present elevation and as the water receded to the shore which it now washes.



Photo by J. B. Torrell, June 25, 1912.
Cliff of till overlain by stratified marine sands on the east side of Hayes river

Among the lowest of these old beaches one of the strongest may be seen on the west bank of Severn river 650 yards south of the trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company, with its crest 40 feet above high tide of Hudson Bay. On it a Mission church has been built, and behind the church an Indian trail starts northwestward and follows it for many miles as it forms a narrow dry belt through the adjoining swamp.

Farther up Fawn river, a branch of the Severn river, and near the mouth of Otter river, an extensive sand plain would appear to represent the highest of these old marine shore lines, where a delta had been formed at the mouth of some inflowing stream.

Farther inland, south of the maritime plain, most of the recent stratified deposits observed were formed immediately in front of either the Labradorian or the Patrician glacier, or they were directly connected with one or other of these two glaciers, but the areas covered by such extra-glacial deposits did not appear to be anywhere very extensive.