

### **Blame the sun for climate change, not human beings**

Earth is estimated to be 4 billion years old. During all of those years, the climate has been changing. So yes, climate change is real. However, we only have a statistically insignificant 200 years or so of accurate weather data for Erie. So we don't really know what the "average" weather has been in Erie the past 4 billion years. We do know that Lake Erie was formed by a retreating glacier about 14,000 years ago.

During that ice age, which lasted more than 100,000 years, it was really cold in Erie. A third of the U.S. (including Erie County) and all of Canada were under a mile or two of ice. For variety in your weather, just compare that ice age to the age of reptiles when there was no ice anywhere on the

planet for 186 million years.

Antarctica was covered by a forest and had an average temperature in the mid 50s – not unlike Erie's current weather.

Today on Antarctica, the average temperatures are estimated to range from about 10 degrees to a rather chilly minus 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Still some scientists declare our current climate to be a sacred planetary normal that cannot be allowed to change. They are wrong.

On May 31, 2016, an article appeared in the Washington Times titled, "Scientists find evidence of global warming on Mars." The cause is likely the sun – that ball of fire in the sky that contains 99.8 percent of the mass of our solar system – not SUVs or cows or the Mars rover.

Don't get me wrong, humans can have a small impact on our weather and no doubt anything that cleans the environment is good. But the simple truth is that until we can control the heat output of the sun, we cannot control the temperature on Earth.

– Donald Moczulski, Erie