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# theblogprof

A blog about politics, faith, science and technology, physical fitness, and life.

## About Me



The blogprof

I'm an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Oakland University specializing in alternative energy (especially biofuels), thermal transport phenomena, two-phase flow and fluid and thermal energy systems. I am also a Christian, a husband, a father of six and a competitive natural bodybuilder. All opinions in this personal blog are my own, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of my employer, companies that I consult for, family, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or my pets. Email me at theblogprof "at" gmail "Dot" com

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Monday, July 20, 2009

## Great Lakes Water Levels Increasing. Global Warming Alarmists Still Claim They Will Fall!

For some time now, global warming alarmists have been squawking about how global warming will evaporate the Great Lakes to such a large



extent that it will totally change the ecology of the entire region of the U.S. and Canada. Here's an article (just one of many examples mind you) from the Detroit News more than a year back about how global warming will lower lake levels: [Global warming may drop Great Lakes water levels](#) (Thu May 29, 2008). Here's a snippet from that article:

The report draws on science about global warming to make predictions for the Great Lakes, such as:

- Climate change will boost daily high temperatures between 5.4 and 10.8 degrees.
- Warmer lakes will mean less ice cover and *lower water levels of 1 to 3 feet* in the next century.

Corner

 American Power

 American Thinker

 Atlas Shrugs

Betsy's Page

 Boing Boing

Cassy Fiano

Christian Newswire

Climate Depot

Club for Growth

Conservative Grapevine

Discriminations

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No Sheeples Here!

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 RedState

- *Biological "dead zones," where plants and animals can't live, will spread.*

- *Intense storms will swamp stressed sewage treatment plants, forcing them to release raw and partially treated sewage into the lakes.*

Unfortunately for the ignorant MSM, observable data contradicts their assertions and alarmism. I have pointed to data that the Great Lakes have seen increases in water levels, not decreases. Related to that topic are these former posts:

- [Michigan Lake Levels Not Changed By Global Warming After All](#)
- [Water Levels Rising in the Great Lakes](#)
- [Conflicting articles on the Great Lakes and Global Warming](#)
- [Did Global Warming Cause Less Ice on the Great Lakes?](#)
- [On the IPCC's forecast accuracy, or lack thereof](#)
- [Scientists Blind to Observable Data](#)
- [Global Warming Hits The Bay Area HARD!](#)
- [MI adds to anti-global warming evidence](#)
- [MC: GVSU's water research institute focuses on global warming](#)
- [Global Warming? "Harsh winters push lake levels back to near normal"](#)
- [Lowering the bar for a Global Warming Cataclism - a lot!](#)
- [freep: Snowfall today could push season into top 20](#)

But hey - why let inconvenient observable data interfere with the narrative? The meme now is that the recovery is temporary and that global warming will still chop 3 feet off the Great Lakes and change the ecology of the entire region and parts of Canada. Groan. From The Detroit News: [Great Lakes water levels rebound after long slump](#).

*Great Lakes water levels are rebounding* after a decade-long slump that hammered the maritime industry and even fed conspiracy theories about plots to drain the inland seas that make up nearly one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water.

*The three biggest lakes -- Superior, Huron and Michigan -- have risen steadily* since fall 2007, when for a couple of months Superior's levels were the lowest on record and the others nearly so. *Erie, shallowest of the lakes, actually exceeded its long-term average in June. So did Lake Ontario*, although its level is determined more by artificial structures than nature.

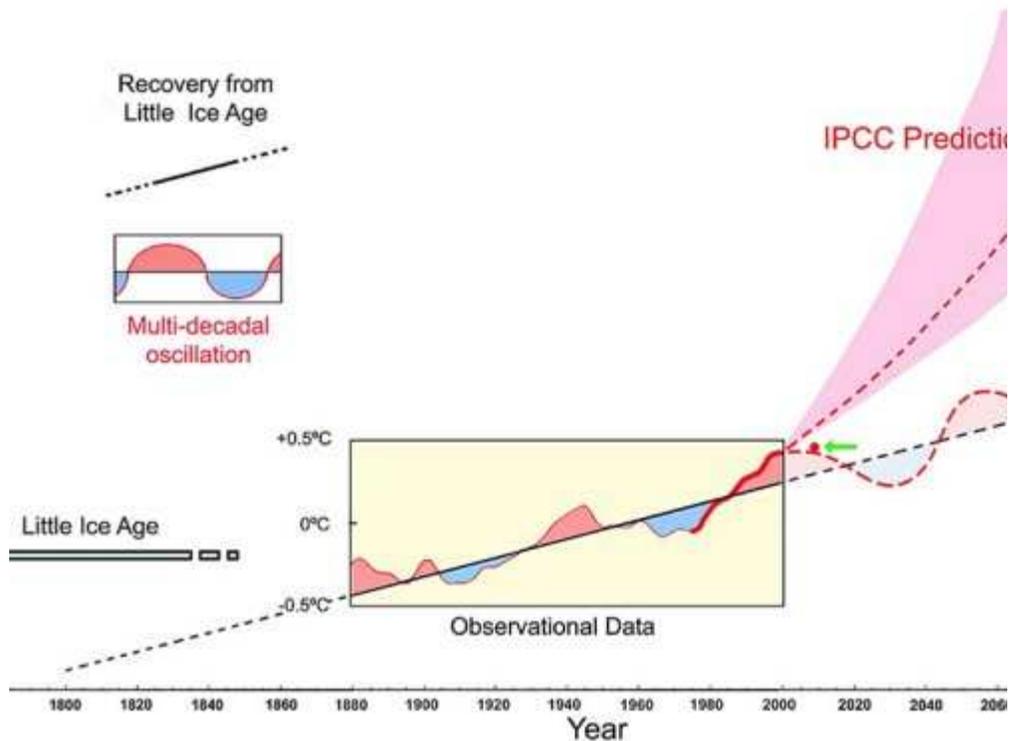
- Right Wing News
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- Stop The ACLU
- Sweetness & Light
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- Wired Science
- WorldNetDaily

*The lakes follow cycles, rising and falling over time.* Scientists say it's a natural process with environmental benefits, such as replenishing coastal wetlands. But extreme ups or downs can wreak havoc for people.

*During the mid-1980s, levels got so high that houses, businesses and even sections of roads were swept away along Lake Michigan's southeastern shoreline.*

the past couple of years. *Scientists attribute the rebound primarily to wetter, colder weather* the past couple of years. *But if grim computer modeling proves accurate, global warming will cause the lakes to recede up to 3 feet this century.*

Now, you might be asking like I was - "WHERE THE HECK DID THAT COME FROM ????" Speaking of those "models," haven't they all proven to be crap? Like - totally junk? Why yes. Yes they have! How would one know this? Anyone recall this graphic from [WUWT](#) some time ago?: :



Every model that the IPCC had has been proven wrong. The global

## Useful

- <http://izismile.com>
- <http://www.boxofficemojo.com/>
- <http://www.google.com>
- <http://www.imdb.com>
- <http://www.mapquest.com>
- <http://www.southparkstudios.com/>
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## MSM

- CNN.com
- FOXNews
- WSJ.com
- ESPN.com

Report

Detroit Free Press

 The Detroit News

MLive.com Michigan Local News

The Macomb Daily News/Talk 760 WJR

The Oakland Press

temperature is right now outside the uncertainty bands around all those models. Well outside. Thus, the models aren't worth the hard drive platters they are printed on. But from the liberal point of view, why ruin a good narrative when it can be injected into an article such as this one right out of left field! Did the AP do their research before writing the article? Does the Detroit News understand what the heck is going into their publication? Aren't they all supposed to check and double-check their facts? The piece continues:

*"Climate projections say the lakes will go up and down around a decreasing average,"* said Don Scavia, director of the University of Michigan's Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute. "The lows will be lower than in the past and the highs will be lower than in the past."

Records extending to the mid-1800s document a series of larger rises and dips at roughly 30-year intervals, said Craig Stow, a scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor.



0s wasn't unexpected, but its suddenness and severity caught many off guard. Drought and warming temperatures didn't help as winter ice caps, crucial for limiting evaporation, formed in ever smaller areas.

Since fall 2007, rain and snow have picked up and

## Michigan Blogroll

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*18 hours ago*

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Apologies Demanded

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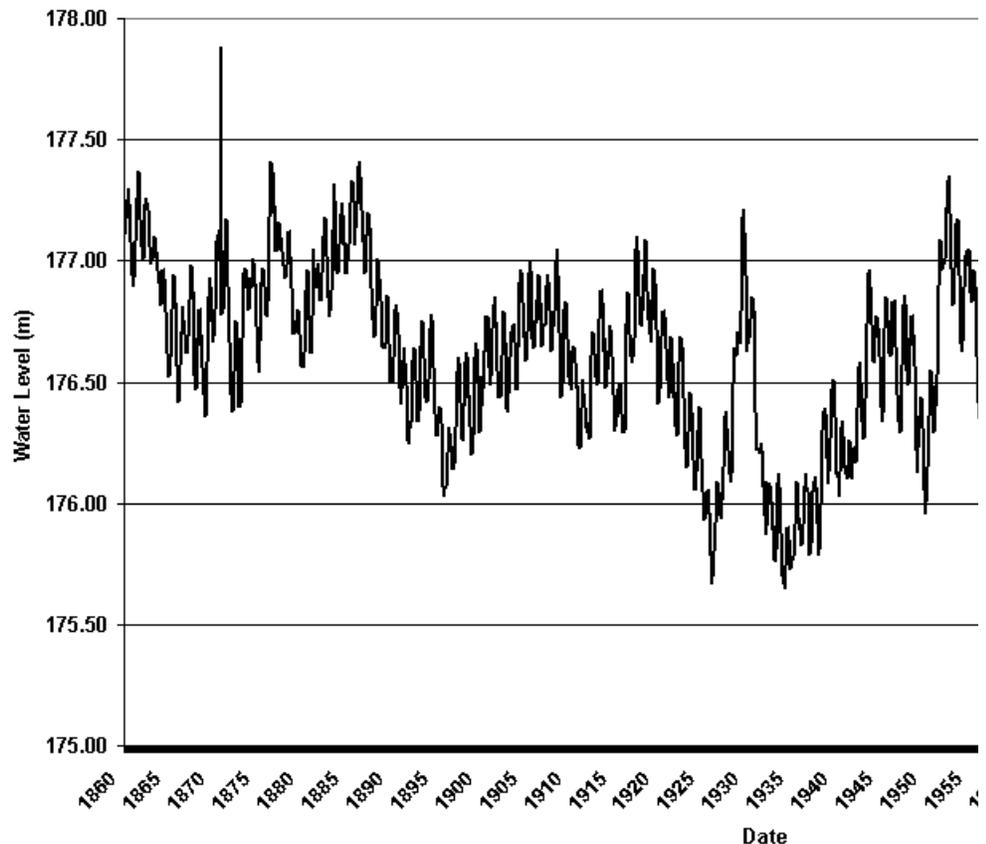
winters have been colder. The lakes had substantial ice cover during the 2008-09 winter, meteorologists say.

At the end of June, *Huron and Michigan* -- which hydrologically are one lake -- were 10 inches higher than the previous year. Erie had risen 5 inches, Superior was near the same level and Ontario was an inch lower.

*Ontario and Erie were 5 inches above their long-term averages, while the others were within 6 inches of theirs.*

As for the data, 150 years of lake level data may not be nearly enough to predict what is happening, especially when only a few cyclical changes are observable. That and you have to wonder about data uncertainty from before the Civil War. Let's just look at what's been going on in Lake Michigan since that time:

Lake Michigan Water Levels



This data does not include the recent upswing, but what is most

Right Meeting

1 week ago

Jack McHugh's Blog

My Oshkosh 2009: A real life hero; an amazing coincidence; the most beautiful airplane ever  
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JustMichigan

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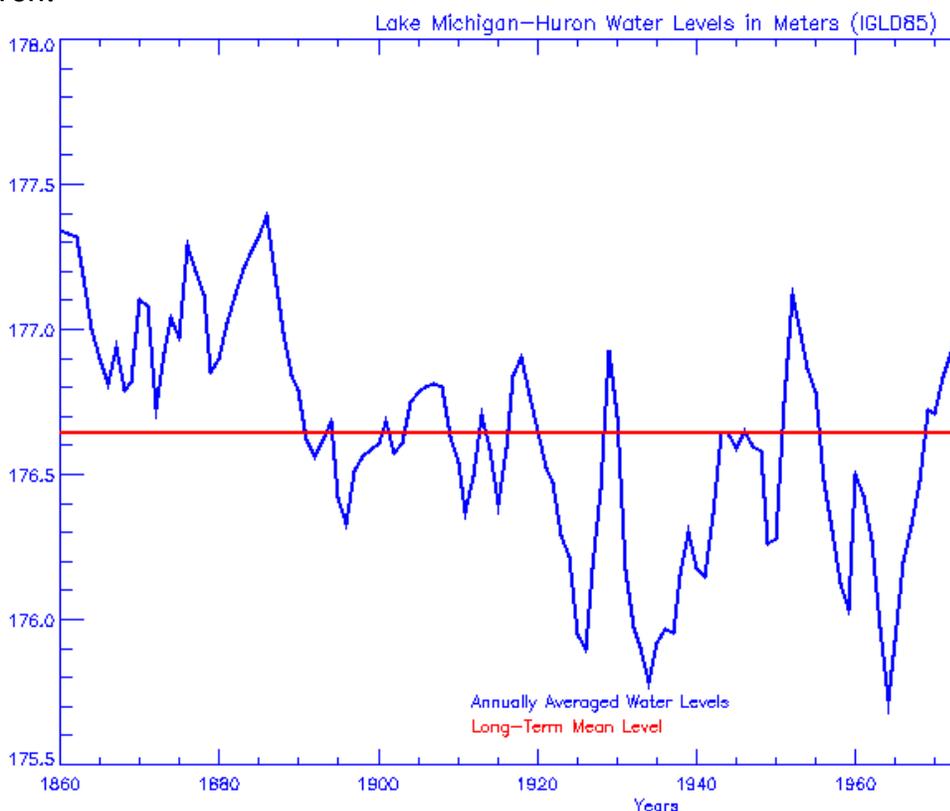
Jerry Reed: East Bound And Down

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MuskegonPundit

Muskegon's Leggett hopes to step into starting role

interesting to me is that the biggest decline in the average lake level *occurred before the industrial revolution!* In fact before the civil war! No SUVs. No coal power plants. No measurable carbon footprint. Yet, the observable data indicates that the lake level changed mostly when we had no effect via CO2 emissions, while the recent century has seen no average change even though our carbon footprint has went up substantially! Now let's take a look at Lake Huron:



Note here also that there was a substantial drop in the level from 1860 until about 1920, right in the heart of the industrial revolution. Since that time, as our carbon footprint increased very significantly, there is essentially no change in the lake level average. Thus, the quote in the Detroit News/AP article by the director of the University of Michigan's Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute that there is a decreasing mean is bunk! But even if it were true, the pattern extends into the past far beyond the industrial revolution when we simply could not have an effect by burning fossil fuels! So what caused *that*?

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Posted by The blogprof at 7:30 PM

Labels: global warming, Michigan

7 hours ago

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**Senator Cameron S. Brown**

How to follow Cameron Brown for Secretary of State

5 weeks ago

**Students for Life of Michigan**

## 6 comments:

**RightMichigan.com said...**

Careful. The bad guys might call you an "idiot," like they did Bruce Hall.

A dangerous thing to dare question the high holiness of his excellency, Mr. Gore.

--Nick

[www.RightMichigan.com](http://www.RightMichigan.com)

[July 21, 2009 8:26 AM](#)

**The blogprof said...**

Oh come on, Nick - Al Gore celebrated "human achievement hour" with me!:

[http://theblogprof.blogspot.com/2009/03/al-gore-celebrated-human-achievement\\_31.html](http://theblogprof.blogspot.com/2009/03/al-gore-celebrated-human-achievement_31.html)

We're buds!

[July 21, 2009 10:32 AM](#)

**bear said...**

I was there..... in the late 60's we had a cabin on Lake Huron and had a football field of distance from the cabin to the water line. By the mid 70's we were watching cabins fall into the lake with each major storm.

Bear

[July 21, 2009 2:29 PM](#)

**Jason Gillman said...**

Our cabin with about 40' of beach just beyond the road that ran right in front of it when it was bought in 1970. By 1975 it was all we could do anytime the waves were more than a few feet to "bail it out." 10 years ago it was a 600' beach, and now half that.

Sand comes up and washes out. Water rises and recedes.

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*3 weeks ago*

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*1 day ago*

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America's Villians

*1 week ago*

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Obamacare roundup

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**The Spartan Review**  
Free Market Health Care over Government Run

*1 week ago*

**The Suburban Voice**  
the voice of one crying out in suburbia

Seems to be cyclical anyhow. The creek behind the cabin suffered its worse hit not from low water levels, but a loss of trees during a clearing or fire several years ago which reduced the watershed..

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=45.704576,-86.932964&spn=0.001652,0.004823&t=h&z=18>

[July 21, 2009 9:09 PM](#)

**The blogprof said...**

The observable data indicates... NOTHING! Cyclical but also stochastic/random.

[July 21, 2009 10:06 PM](#)

**Eric said...**

Nick is right ... Bruce Hall is an idiot.

Oh, blogprof, you cheeky monkey. If you're going to debunk a theory, you should probably familiarize yourself with it rather than reading one too many columns on Townhall.com. There's a reason why climate theory rests on predictions of changes taking place by the end of the century ... it's a long-term phenomenon, this climate thingy you think is disproved by a three-year swing in lake levels. It's controversial to say that we are today even seeing impact by it.

On the other hand, you are correct in suggesting otherwise. Most climate models have turned out to be slightly off ... that is, overly optimistic by the rate of change. Losses of Arctic and Antarctic ice and glaciers have taken place more rapidly than expected.

Anyway, you've posted comments that actually explain the changes you seem to think drive a final stake into the heart of climate change theory. Lows in lake levels are expected to be lower in general, as are highs. There remains a place for natural variability, which is what we've seen these last three years, what with the rather

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13 hours ago

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Death Traps  
2 months ago

**WayneCountyTaxpayers Inc**  
Assaulted On Every Side.  
6 days ago

harsh, cold winters (you'll notice this referenced in the story). As the region slowly warms, expect less ice cover in the winter leading to greater evaporation, which in turns leads to ... well, I assume you're smart enough to see how this story turns out.

I do have to ask what pre-Industrial Revolution lake level numbers have to do with post-Industrial Revolution lake level numbers. That is, do we know why lake levels decreased faster then, as opposed to things that may be influencing current phenomenon. That's mostly a rhetorical question. I'm really just interested in seeing you spread your intellectual wings and take flight.

Oh yes. Two final questions -- how old is the Earth, and do you believe in evolution? Don't lie or dodge, blogprof, as these things have a way of sorting themselves out in all manner of hilarious fashion eventually.

[July 23, 2009 5:58 PM](#)

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Video: The Tim Tebow Story  
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