

Climate change is real and only denied by fools

Dan McCaffery - September 2023

Climate change deniers continue to spout their nonsense, even as much of Canada burns down. As of this writing almost 6,000 wildfires in 2023 had destroyed fully four per cent of the nation's forested area, or more than 34 million acres. That's about five times more devastation from such fires as occurred on average in past years.

Extremely hot, dry conditions have caused many of these fires to burn out of control.

Whole cities have been threatened and many thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes.

Nor is the problem relegated to one area. Earlier this summer the air in Sarnia was badly polluted by wildfires raging in northern Ontario and Quebec. Last month, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories were being roasted by fire. In fact, the problem has raged from coast to coast.

While all of this was going on, Washington state was on fire, along with part of Hawaii. On the island of Maui fires probably killed over 1,100 people (114 were dead at the time of this writing with another 1,000 or so missing).

And of course much of the western United States is rapidly running out of drinking water.

But I didn't need to see the news coverage of these many disasters to know the climate has changed dramatically in my lifetime.

When I was a boy in the mid-1960s we used to build backyard skating rinks during winter months. One year, a friend of mine had a sheet of ice on Briarfield Avenue that lasted almost two months. Today, you'd be lucky to get an outdoor rink to last two weeks.

When I retired from full-time reporting 14 years ago, I went on a number of camping trips with friends. Once, I found myself in northern Ontario in October. There was a smog alert broadcast on Owen Sound radio, something that flabbergasted me. In my youth smog was something that happened in Los Angeles, not Ontario. And certainly not in northern Ontario in late fall.

It was so warm on the French River one night that we didn't even bother to pitch tents, opting instead to sleep outside. Had anyone tried sleeping outside in northern Ontario during late October a generation ago, they would probably have frozen to death.

The weather is far more unpredictable today than it was half a century ago, something I have seen first hand.

Before too many more decades go by, large coastal cities will be under water and people living in the southern hemisphere will be facing unbearably hot temperatures. Literally billions of people will have to move north or perish.

If this problem was easy to solve it would have been fixed a long time ago.

Not being a scientist, I don't have the answers that would make this looming disaster go away.

But I do know climate change is real. Only the most deceived of fools would think otherwise.