

## My Backyard is getting warmer!



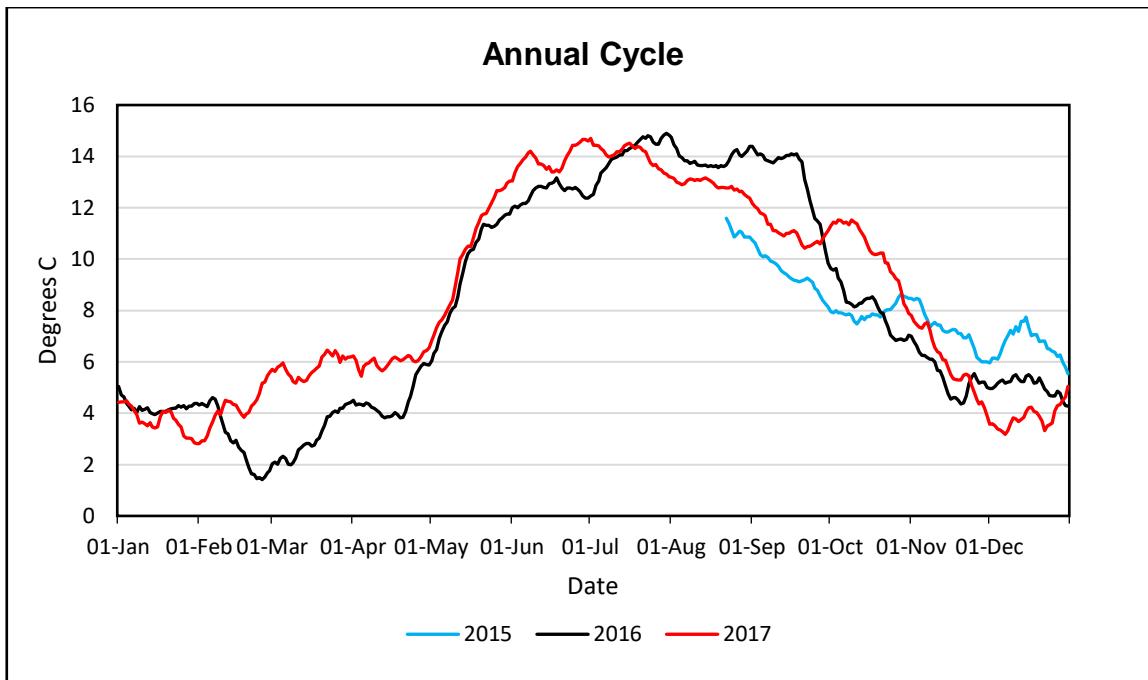
### Introduction

The above photograph may give an impression of a rather cold backyard, but the truth is that whatever snow cover we have at sunrise in recent years will have gone by sunset. And as I shall seek to show in the following the average temperature is slowly rising. I will not claim that this in any way is a scientific study, and I am not a meteorologist and only know about weather patterns what I hear and see on radio and TV.

However, for the last 2-3 years one of my first activities in the morning is to take a reading of the thermometer placed in my backyard and as I am inflicted with Parkinson's disease the intention is to correlate these readings with 'UPDRS' (Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale) observations to see if the strength of symptoms vary with weather conditions. This study is therefore a by-product of this other investigation.

The thermometer is a simple plastic plate with a glass tube in the middle. The scale is the simple Celsius scale with 0° at the freezing point and 100° at the boiling point, and as indicated above I take the reading soon after getting out of bed. I started the exercise in August 2015.

## Annual Cycle



The above diagram shows the annual cycle for each of the three years, and it will not come as a surprise that it shows the summer months – June, July, August - to be warmer than the winter months – December, January, February.

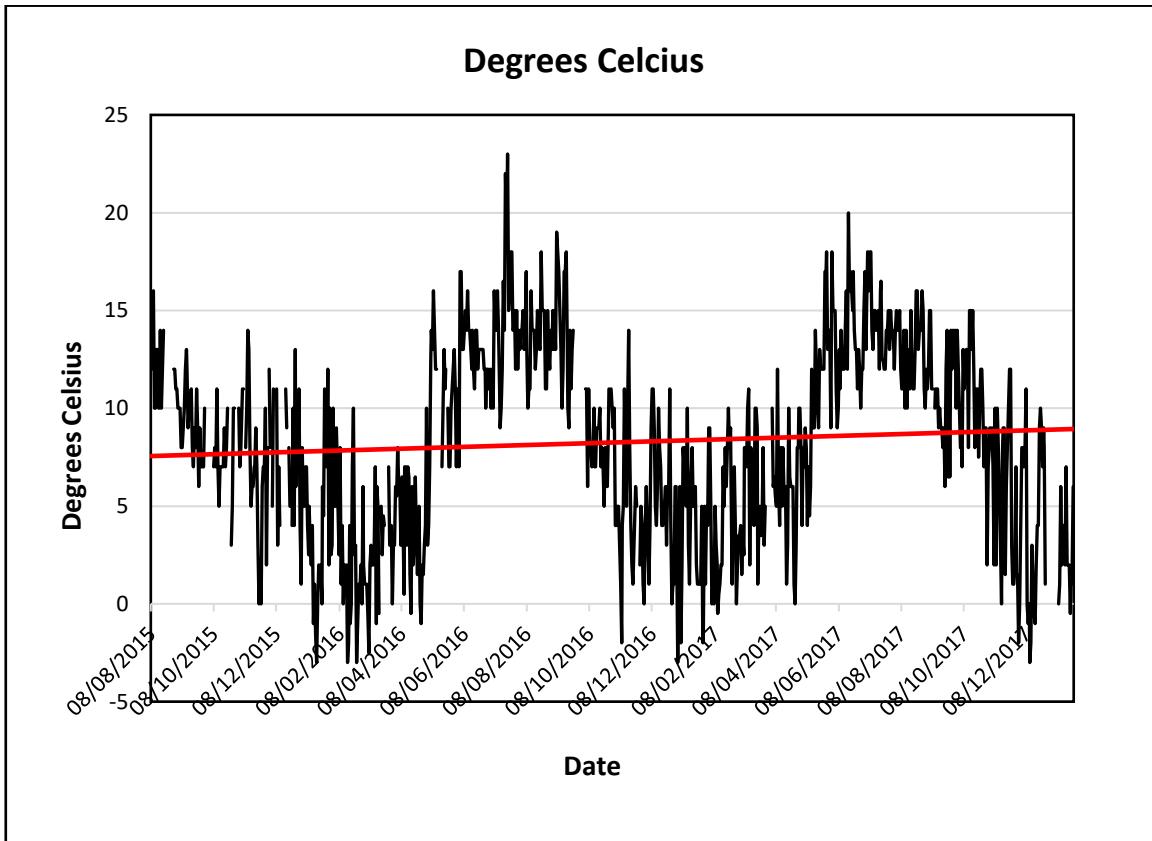
	2015	2016	2017
<----- Degrees Celcius ----->			
<b>Quarter 1</b>		3.22	4.41
<b>Quarter 2</b>		8.91	8.70
<b>Quarter 3</b>	10.33*)	13.95	13.27
<b>Quarter 4</b>	7.46	6.17	7.88
<b>Annual</b>	8.58*)	8.02	8.64

\*)Excluding the months January and part of August.

The averages for each of the four conventional quarters of the years are shown in the above table and it is noted that Quarter 4 and 1 (October to March) between 2016 and 2017 have gone slightly warmer whereas Quarter 2 and 3 (April to September) have gone slightly colder. Overall 2017 was slightly warmer than 2016 by approximately 0.6° C.

## Longitudinal evidence

We can now aggregate the readings for all three years into one graph and add a trend line as shown in the diagram below to provide a longitudinal view of the temperatures.



The trend line seems to show an increase in average temperature from about 7.5° C in August 2015 to about 9° C in January 2018.

## Conclusion

As already indicated the above study is not scientific, even less a proof of anything. However, despite its shortcomings it is at least evidence. Perhaps it will make you the reader stop and think: If the warming of the climate is that obvious perhaps 'they' do have a point. Is it caused by man or is it part of greater changes in nature over which we have no control? In the first case: Can we afford to ignore that possibility and if that is so is it not time we cut out our bad habits? In the second case, just maybe cutting out our bad habits will help to alleviate the consequences of global warming.