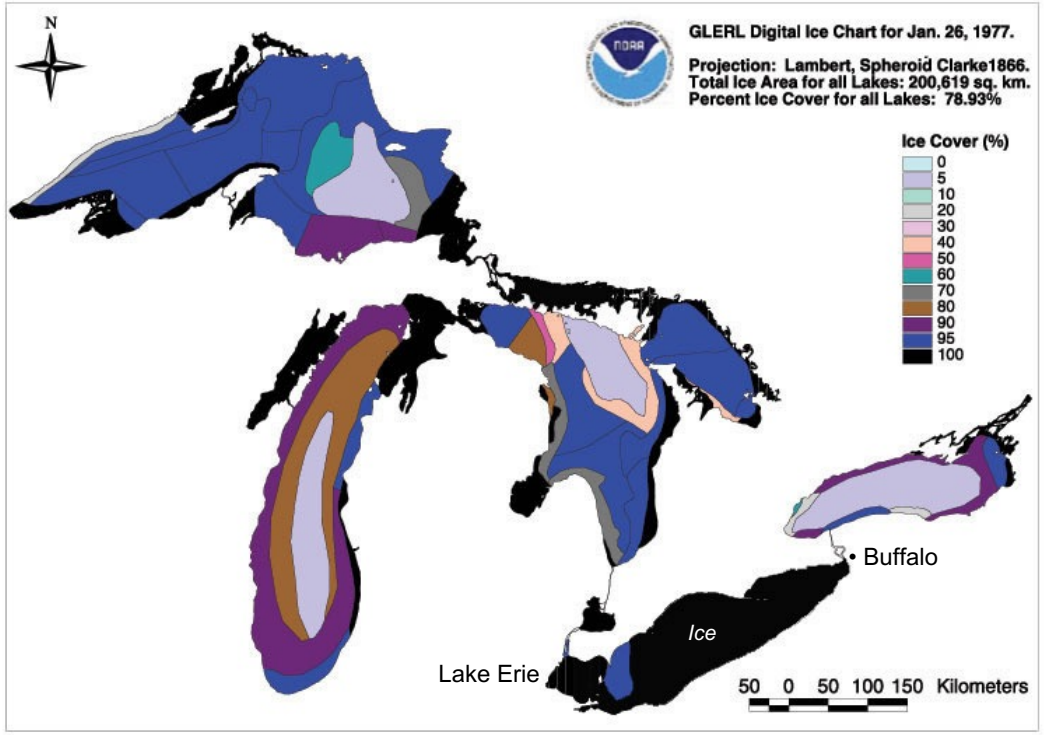
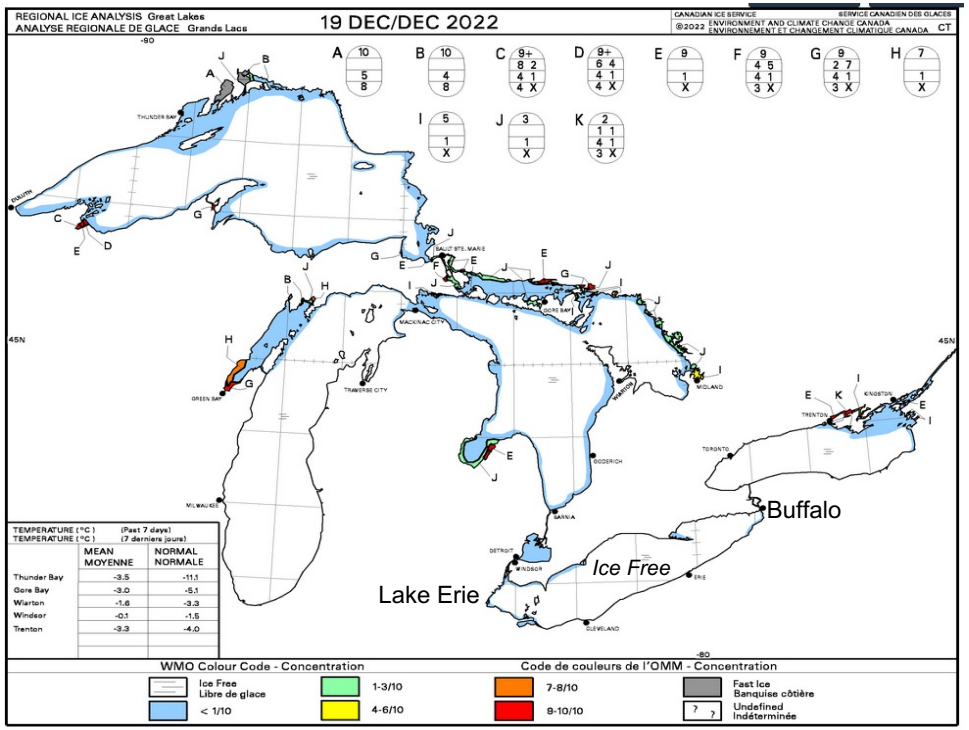
A Tale of Two Blizzards

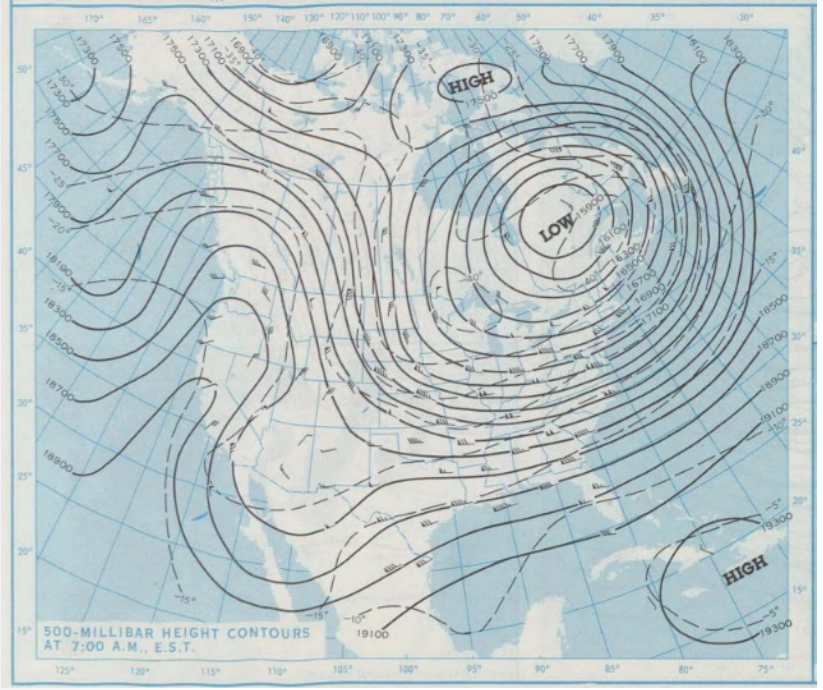
1977

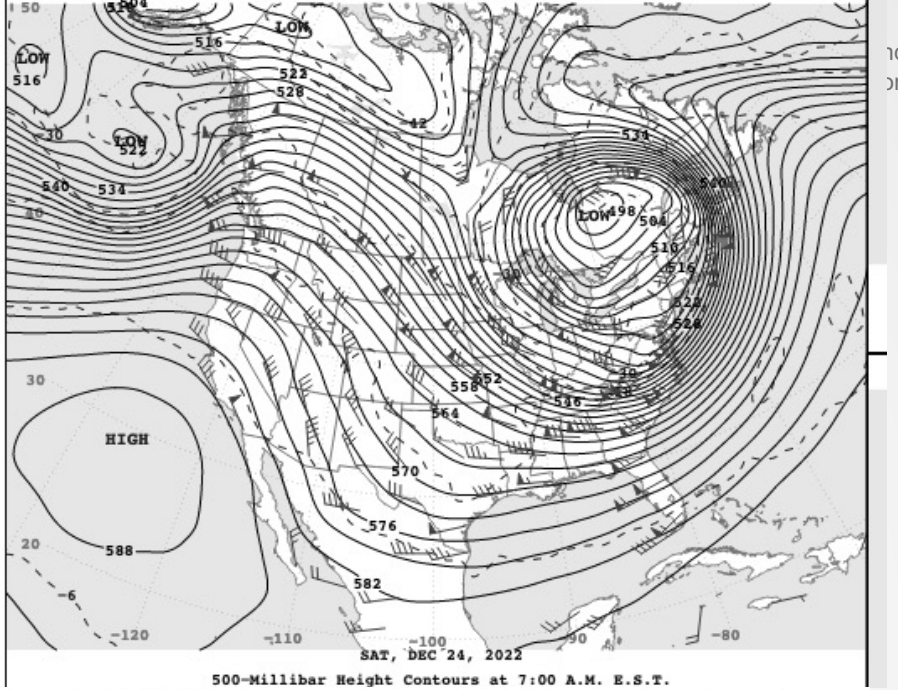


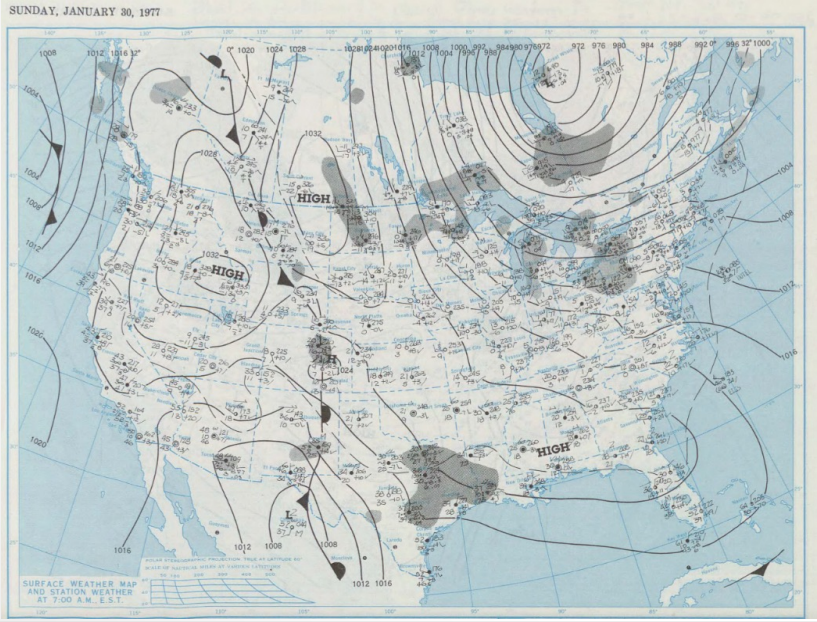
2022

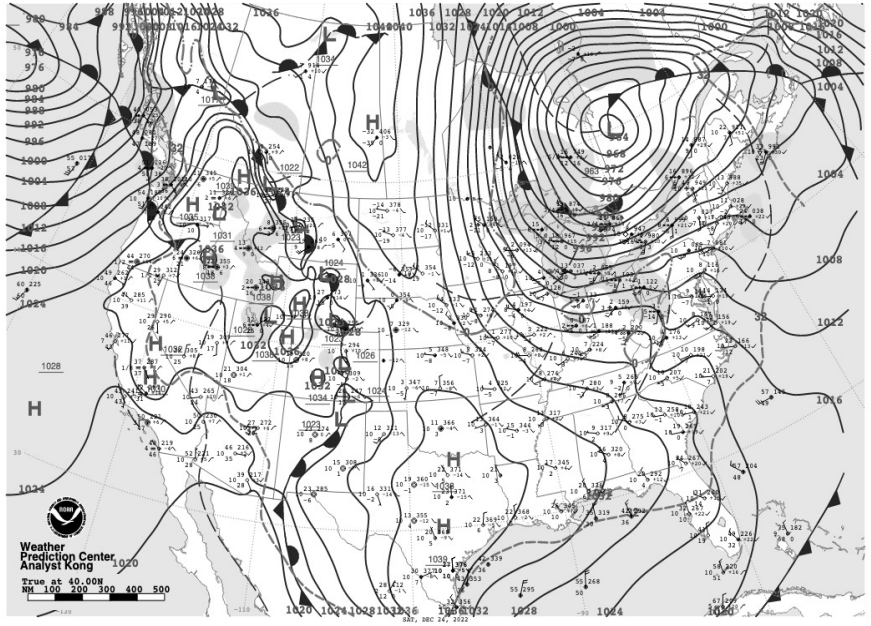


Blizzards have unique identifying characteristics distinguishing one from another. The Blizzard of 1977 severely impacted western New York, specifically the Buffalo metro region, and is often cited as the benchmark event by which other blizzard events are compared. That is, until a blizzard struck the area December 23-27, 2022, rendering the city paralyzed and claiming more lives than its 1977 predecessor. The above images show a comparison of the frozen state of the Great Lakes just prior to the blizzards of 1977 (left) and 2022 (right). Notice that Lake Erie was almost completely frozen over at the onset of the 1977 blizzard, while it is ice-free at the onset of the massive 2022 blizzard.


HIGH
LOW
HIGH
500-MILLIBAR HEIGHT CONTOURS
AT 7:00 A.M., E.S.T.


LOW
LOW
LOW
HIGH
SAT, DEC 24, 2022
500-Millibar Height Contours at 7:00 A.M. E.S.T.


SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1977
HIGH
HIGH
HIGH
SURFACE WEATHER MAP
AND STATION WEATHER
AT 7:00 A.M. E.S.T.


Weather
Prediction Center
Analyst Kong
True at 40.00N
NM 100 200 300 400 500
Surface Weather Map and Station Weather at 7:00 A.M. E.S.T.