

Fall 2010 Seminar Series

CHALLENGES AND INNOVATION IN CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING



**Huffing and Puffing and Blowing It Down:
Can we mitigate damage to houses in
severe storms?**

Gregory Kopp

Professor, University of Western Ontario

**Thursday, November 18, 2010
138 DeBartolo Hall, 3:30pm**

Severe storms are causing increasing losses around the world each year. Much of the damage is to houses; and this has been happening for so long that we have even mythologized this fact in popular children's stories such as the 'Three Little Pigs'. The talk will focus on how wind storms damage houses and what we, as engineers, can do to stop it. In particular, wind tunnel tests of houses, combined with full-scale testing allow for us to find optimal, cost effective solutions. Such research has been increasing in recent years and many of these new results will be discussed.



Dr. Kopp obtained a B.Sc. at the University of Manitoba in 1989, an M.Eng. from McMaster University in 1991 and a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1995, all in Mechanical Engineering. He joined the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Western Ontario in 1997 following two years in Spain as an NSERC post-doctoral fellow. In 2001, he was awarded a Canada Research Chair in the area of Wind Engineering. His research interests include wind effects on low-rise buildings, disaster mitigation, bluff body aerodynamics and turbulence.



**A reception and an opportunity to meet the speaker will take place in
Fitzpatrick 156 at 3pm before the seminar**