### Hurricanes and Houses: Causes and Consequences

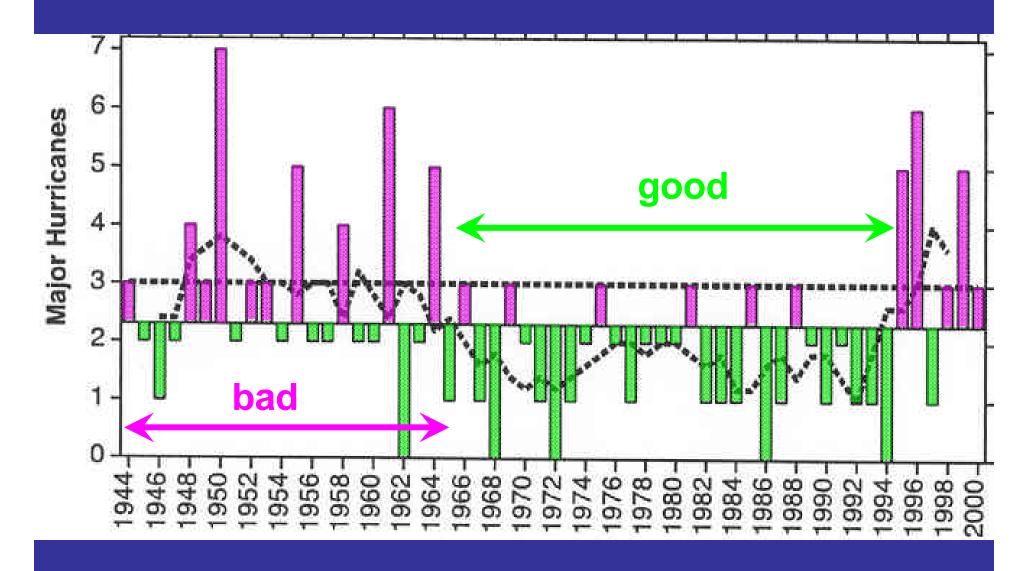


Mike Bartlett, Ph.D., P.Eng. University of Western Ontario

### **Today's Itinerary**

- Hurricanes & their frequency
- Effects on houses
- Three Little Pigs Project
  - What we will learn
  - Status

#### **Atlantic Hurricane Activity Increasing**

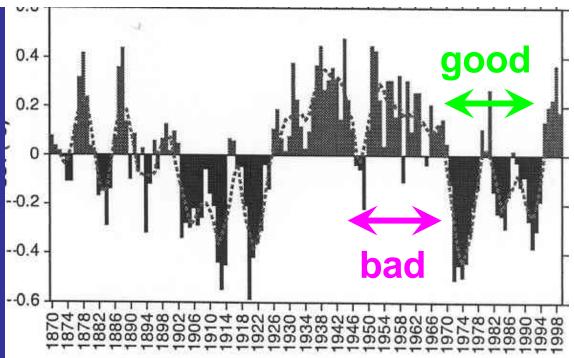


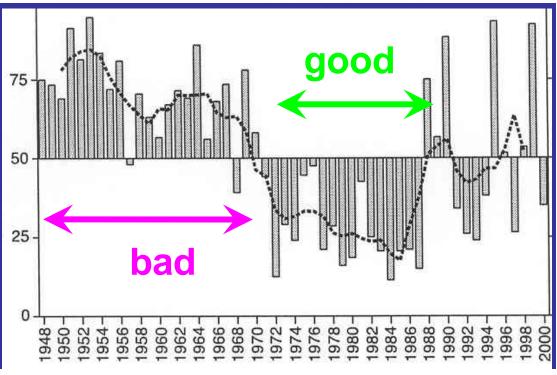
• Goldenberg et al, Science 2001

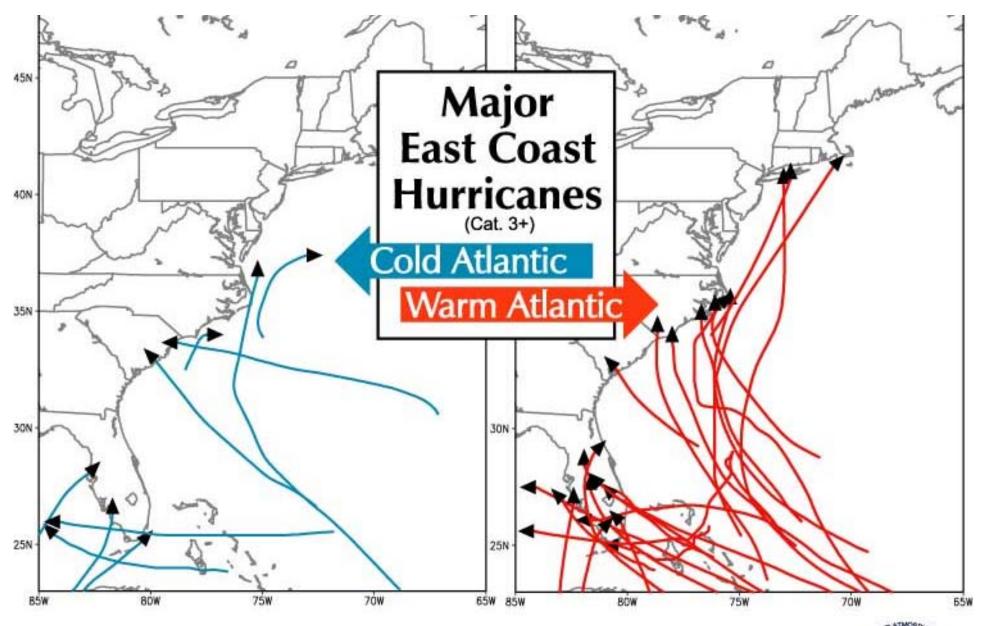
#### Linked to

### Sea Surface Temperature

and Vertical Wind Shear







1903-1925, 1971-1994

1926-1970, 1995-2000

1903 1925 1926 1970 1971 1995 2001

www.noaanews.noaa.gov/

### Goldenberg et al (2001) conclude:

Effect of global warming?
 "results inconclusive"

 "Present high level of hurricane activity likely to persist for an additional ~10-40 years"

### **Animation: Applied Research Associates & Blue Sky Foundation**



# Hurricane Hugo, North Carolina



**Gable Roof Damaged** 

**Hip Roof Undamaged** 

### Cyclone Larry, Australia, 2006



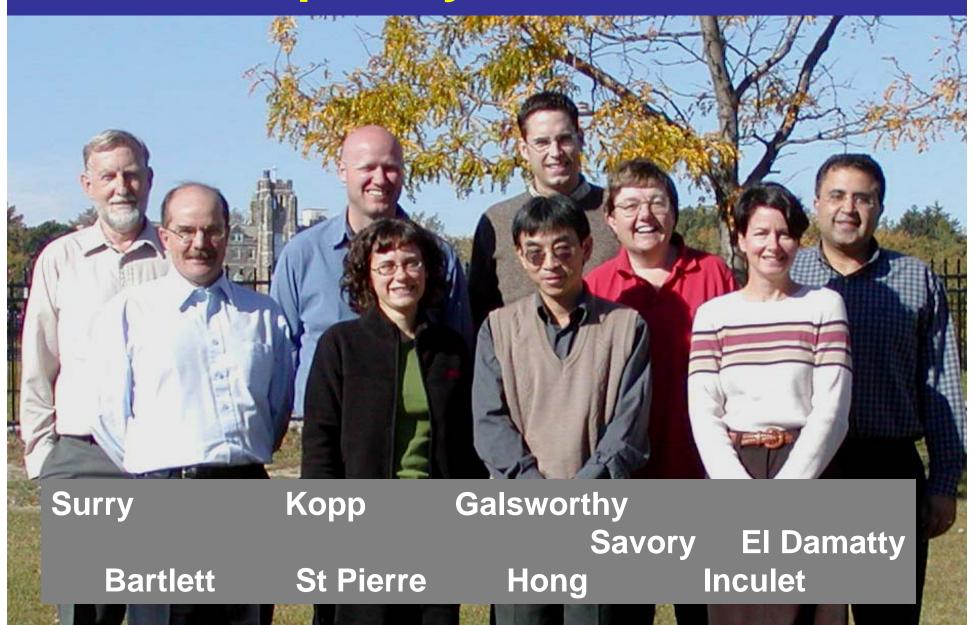
# Western's \$6.8 M "Three Little Pigs" Facility



#### full-scale tests of:

- structural response
- moisture penetration/mould

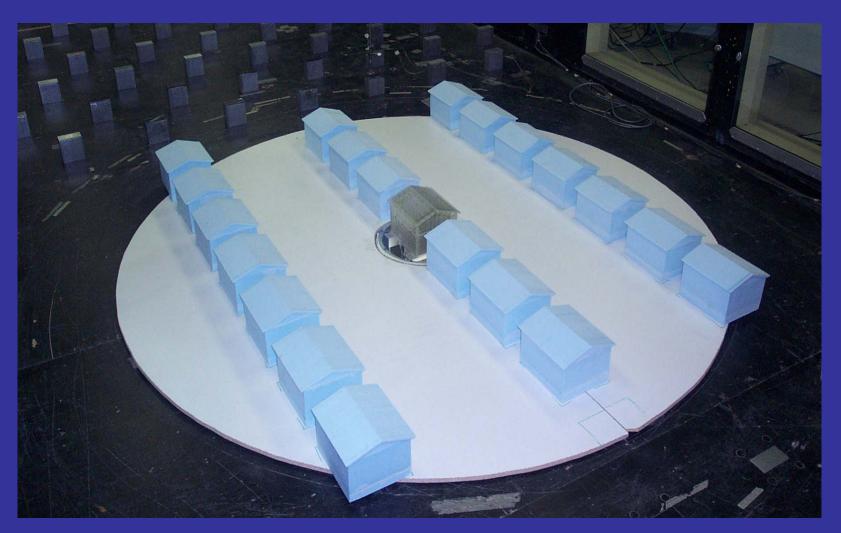
### Multidisciplinary team at Western



### **Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory**



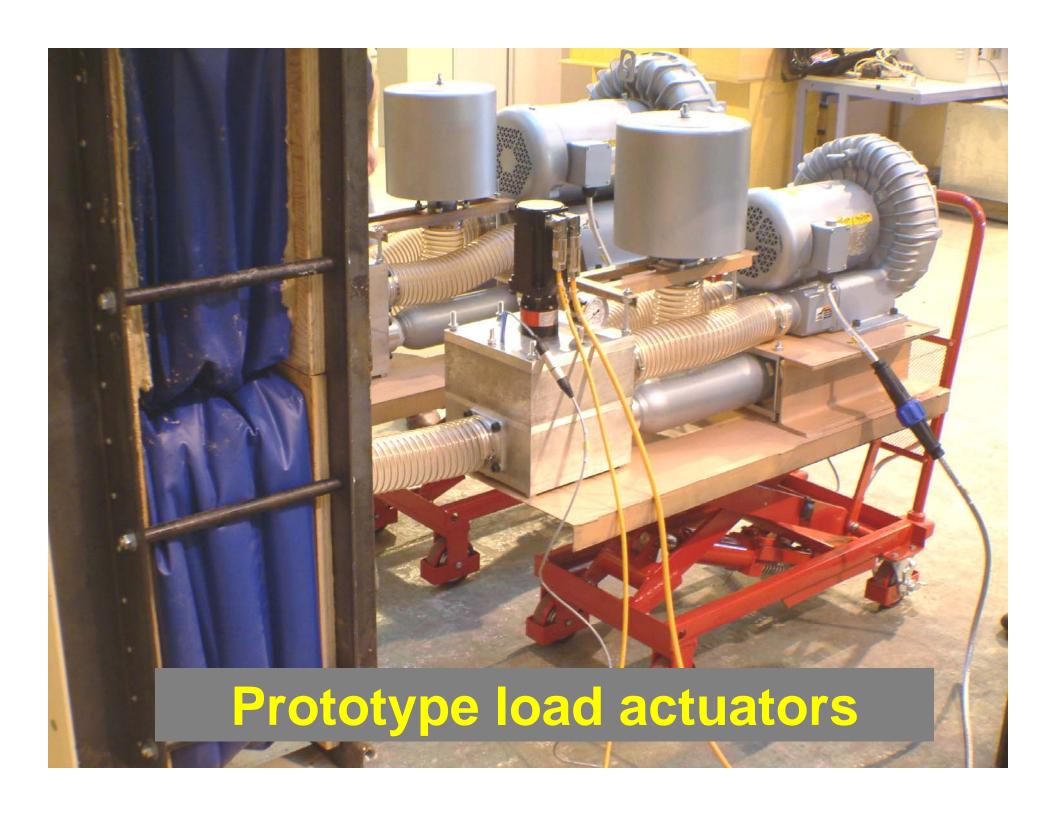
#### **Model Tests in Various Terrains**

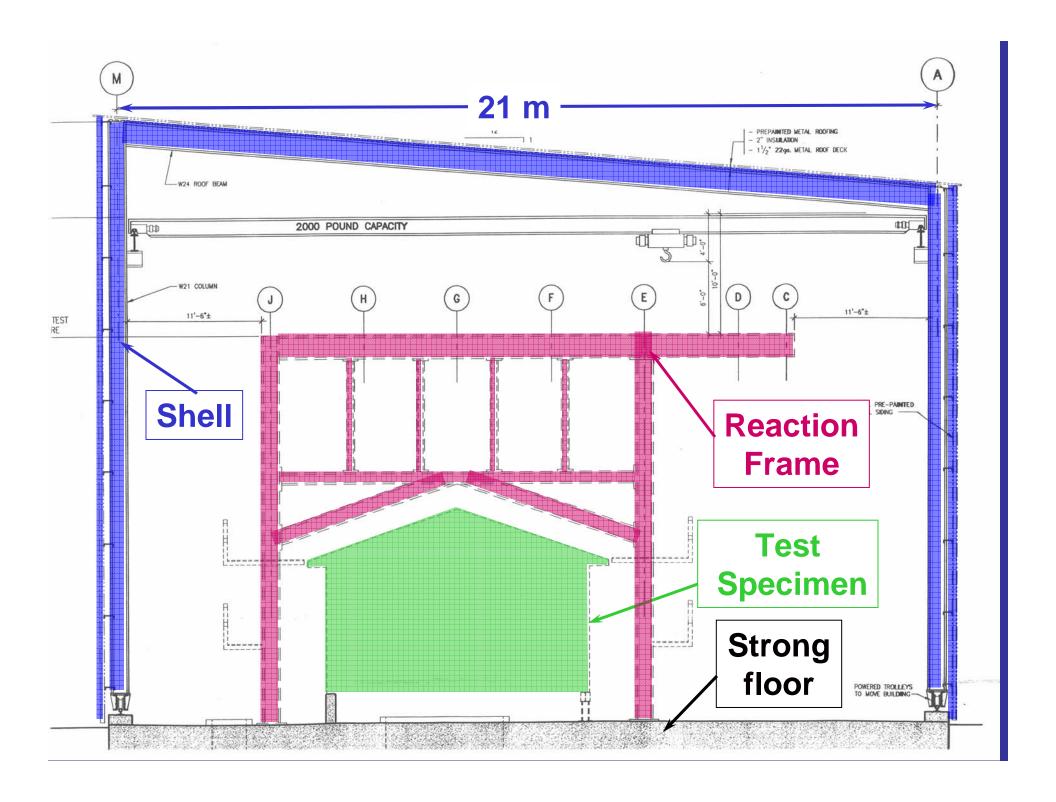


Subdivision, typical street and boulevard widths

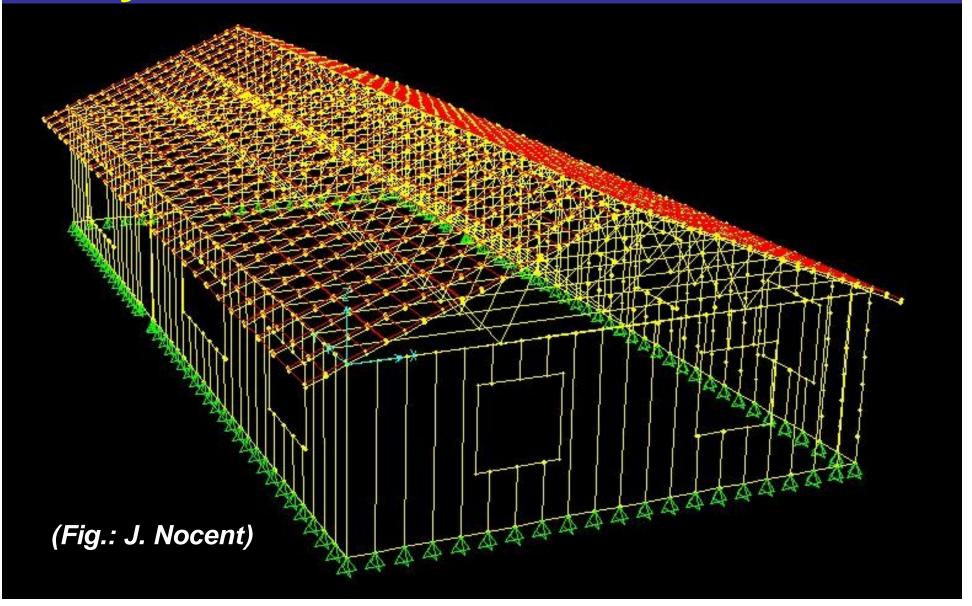
### **Link to Three Little Pigs**

- Wind tunnel data will feed the 'Wolf'
- Pressure time-histories will be directly applied to the full scale test house
- Engineer turbulent wind that can be reproduced





## Validate computer load path analyses



# MoU with Fanshawe College

- Hands-on construction
- Long-term research collaboration

Fanshawe students framing floor



#### Better homes & home owners

- 1. Move prescriptive building codes (now based on past practice) to become based on scientific evidence & sound engineering principles
- 2. Improve design & installation of dwellings & building materials in partnership with builders and manufacturers
- 3. Educate the public on safety issues

### **Complimentary Studies**

- Human error and quality control in construction
- Moisture in the building envelope
- Conditions for mould growth

Studioworks



### Real-world Defects



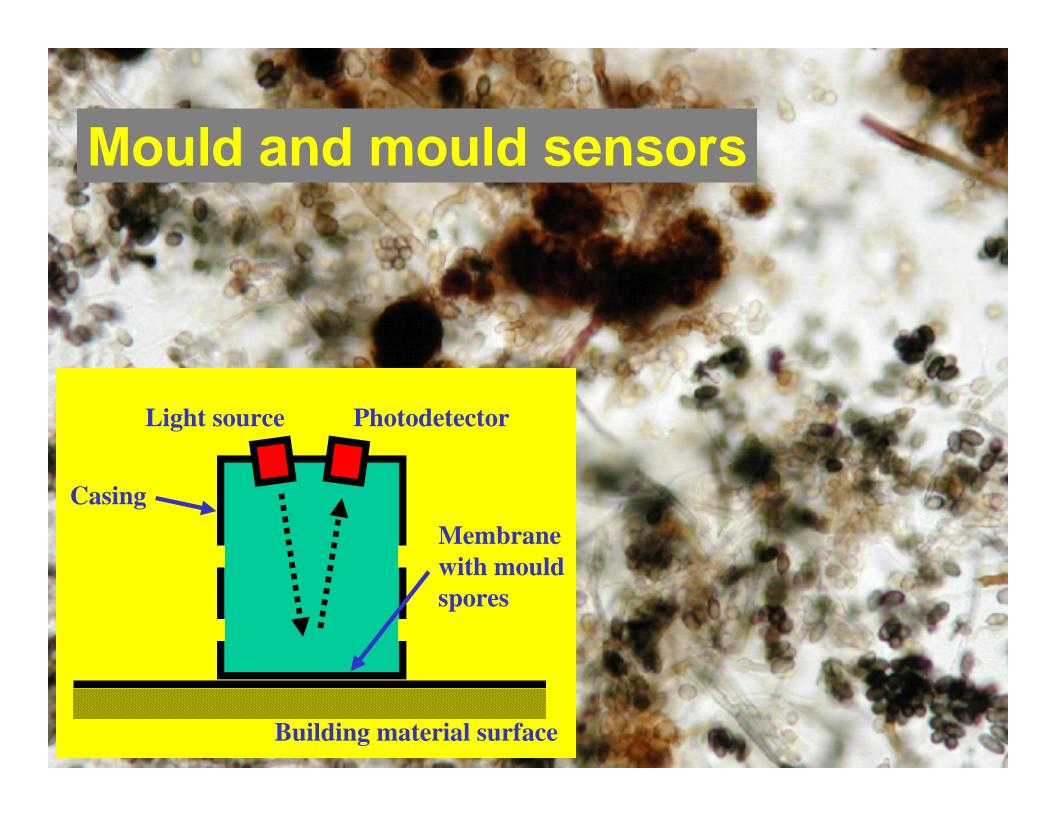


"The frame was in the way!"



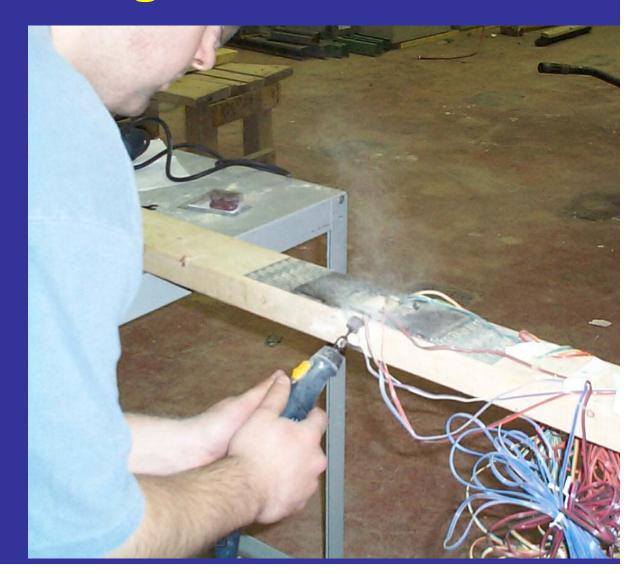


Control Building test wall panels for mould and moisture penetration studies



### Immersing students in disaster and disaster-mitigation research

Jeff Nocent completing load cell installation in 2x4 truss chord





### In closing...

- Atlantic hurricanes will be more frequent
- Significant impact on light-frame construction
- Three Little Pigs project will provide scientific evidence from which robust houses can be engineered



### www.eng.uwo.ca/research/ttlpp

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