Climate change is in no doubt affecting Dufferin County, particularly in the increase of occurrences of severe weather.

Rated using the Fujita scale, which measures storm intensity based upon inflicted damage on structures and vegetation, the graph below illustrates newspaper accounts of damaging wind storms from 1920-1999.

Damaging Winds & Tornadoes

Decade

Damaging winds and tornadoes are occurring more often and causing more damage than ever before.

In addition to storms that are more numerous and more severe, trends in insurance claims across southern Ontario suggest that critical wind damage is now occurring at lower winds speeds than it has in the past.

By off-setting the cost of hurricane clips and construction projects Dufferin County and the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction are mitigating this issue, protecting home owners and reducing the impact of severe weather.

The rebate program

This rebate program will provide you with $4.50 for each installed and inspected hurricane clip used to secure the roof rafters or trusses to the top plate of the wall on your new construction project.

During the framing inspection, the Building Inspector will record the number of hurricane clips installed in accordance with manufacturers specifications. Once the final inspection has been passed and the permit closed, Dufferin County will issue a cheque to the property owner—up to 75% of the permit fees!

Please note: This rebate is not applicable if hurricane clips are required by the structural designer.

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Dufferin County would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the assistance that Greg Kopp Ph.D. of the University Western Ontario and R. Glen McGillvary, M.A. of the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction have provided in the development and implementation of this program.
Hurricane Clip Rebate Program

In partnership with the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, Dufferin County is offering a rebate incentive to property owners or builders who install hurricane clips during construction on all new projects.

These small pieces of metal, widely used in the United States, are a low-cost system that can prevent and reduce the damage caused by roof structures being torn from buildings during severe storms, hurricanes and tornadoes.

What are they?

Hurricane clips, straps, or ties are small pieces of metal that have been engineered to bind the roof rafters or trusses to the top plate of a wall, effectively ensuring that the roof and wall are securely fastened.

What are the costs?

Hurricane clips cost about $1 each and are installed at each connection between the roof rafters or trusses and the top of the wall.

Why?

Strong winds during severe storms, hurricanes, and tornadoes can have a devastating effect on a building. Research shows that violent winds blowing over peaked roofs act like air flowing over the curved wings of an airplane, exerting an upward lift on the structure. Normally we think of how walls hold a roof up, in a windstorm we need to consider how the walls will hold the roof down.

In a storm, the loss of a roof structure leaves a home and its occupants more vulnerable to collapsing walls, falling debris and further damage. Hurricane clips can significantly enhance the structural integrity of a building that is subjected to high winds, reducing the risk of injuries and the cost of damage.

Damage from the Angus Ontario Tornado 2014

Photo credit: Jeremy Cohn, Global News

Damage from the Angus Ontario Tornado 2014

Photo credit: Gregory Kopp