

Calgary's Monstrous Flood

Introduction

You guys must already know about floods, but we have dug deeper into the sauce and found some jaw dropping information that you have to know.

Background Information

Floods don't only bring destruction and disaster they can bring some good too. Before we tell you about the pros and the cons here is some pretty interesting information we think will leave you breathless. Calgary's flood was a devastating event for all the citizens in Calgary. The flood was so bad it could cost 5 billion dollars for repairs. In the days leading up to June 20, the Calgary area experienced heavy rainfall before the flood happened. Because of the heavy rainfall, the water saturated the ground and the Bow River's water level had risen causing the flood to happen.

Communities near the Bow River experienced heavy damage from the water. The citizens that lived away from downtown and the bow river did not experience the flood because the water did not travel that far. During the flood people were evacuated from their homes and even the animals in the Calgary zoo were moved to higher ground.

Factual Information & Supporting Research

Cons

There are many negative effects from the flood.

Animals

The animals that lived near the river were either killed from the flood waters or ran away. They ran way to a safer habitat and to find food and water. Birds that make their nest's near the water probably lost their home and their Children. It's likely that the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary has lost some

animals, for example some white tailed deer, fish and birds that nest near water.

Plants

Trees are an important part of nature. The flood destroyed many. Trees are important to the ecosystem because they provide oxygen. Trees are also a home for many living organisms. Many plants were over-watered or ripped out of the ground.

People

Citizens of Calgary got displaced by the flood and ended up in other homes or cities. Four people died because of the floodwater. Citizens of Calgary would not want to have another flood due to the devastation and destruction of this flood. A flood just doesn't do damage all at once it does damage over time creating mold in homes and businesses. The Saddledome was closed and concerts were cancelled due to the flooding.

Pros

There are some positive effects from the flood.

Animals

Some left over twigs and wood from the flood could be useful for a bird's nest or beavers could use them to build their dam with.

Plants

The silt that the flood brought was good for plants to regrow. The seeds of some trees and plants, for example balsam poplar, get spread during the flood and the water and silt helps it to start growing.

People

If you lived far away from the flood area you wouldn't be as devastated as the people close to the flood area. You would be safer. The people that lived in Calgary came together to rebuild their own city. Volunteers worked non-stop until they repaired the Saddledome so they could still have the Stampede. Many People were rescued by firefighters, police and rescue squads.

The "So What" - Opinion & Recommendations

Our group of ecologists thinks that every government should work with NASA to build sonar in space that can detect when floods are going to happen. Not just predictions, but it should be able to tell what year, month, day, and time the flood will happen. The government should help clean up after the flood especially to get rid of mold in homes. We also think that cities should build protection from floods and that homes should be build on higher ground so they could prevent this tragedy from again.

Our group has been looking at the biodiversity in Calgary before and after the flood. The ecosystems are starting to repair themselves. Animals are returning back to their natural habitats. This a good thing! Humans are also helping to rebuild ecosystems by cleaning up debris and rebuilding riverbank erosion.

Conclusion

We have shown you how monstrous Calgary's flood was. Its important to remember that even though floods cause lots of destruction there are positive effects that can happen. If you are ever in a flood situation its important that you stay safe and away from flood waters. Thank you for coming.