

Alberta Report

The worst floods to hit the Southern Alberta area in recorded history happened June 19th – 24th, 2013. The flood damage to towns and cities that were affected is estimated at somewhere around the 10 billion dollar range, but it will likely be many years before an accurate figure will be understood.

The flood had a significant effect on the Southern Alberta golf industry. Unfortunately, there were many golf courses that are located near rivers that swelled to up to 4X the previously recorded highest flood levels. There were in the range of 20 golf courses that recorded damage to the facility and in the neighborhood of 10 golf courses that were so severely damaged by the flood that they were closed for weeks and or closed indefinitely.

High stream flows from the floods deposited silt, eroded and re aligned river bank edges, knocked out pump stations, clogged irrigation intake systems and golf course features such as greens, tees, fairways and bunkers were damaged. Some golf courses will be spending into the millions for repair work.

Needless to say, the damage to some golf courses has been devastating and the situation facing some of the Golf Course Superintendents is daunting. However, Golf Course Superintendents and their staffs are being helped out by volunteers from their clubs, community, and the entire golf industry. There have been many incredible stories of Golf Superintendents and their staff showing unbelievable resilience and dedication to returning their golf courses to former glory. Many of these clubs have a long way to go and the Golf Course Superintendents can use all the support the industry has to give them.

Good luck to all our friends and colleagues dealing with the flood aftermath and a big thank you to all the golf industry people who have been volunteering to assist in any way they can.

Let's all hope that nothing like this flood ever happens again