

Watersnoodmuseum



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# Flood Museum

From a place to commemorate to a  
National Knowledge and Remembrance Centre



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(province of Zeeland, Zuid-Holland, Brabant)

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- Other countries effected by this storm: Scotland (19 victims), England (307 victims, 70.000 hectares flooded, 47.000 animals drown and 32.000 people evacuated), Belgium (18 victims) and at sea a ferry sinks (133 victims) and ships lost at the North Sea result in 121 deaths



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- Bad maintenance of the dykes
- A north-westerly storm that lasted 30 hours turned the tidal wave into a storm surge
- Powerful waves cause dykes to collapse



# Repair and reconstruction

- 96 breaches in dykes
- Last breache closed is the one in the Ouwerkerk dyke on November 6th 1953 (due to strong currents and the false attempt with Unit caissons earlier)
- They used 4 Phoenix caissons
- Originaly build in England- for Normandie – then Ouwerkerk
- Deltaworks < worldwonders, working on version 2.0



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# Museum

- First ideas in 1993, at first National Commemoration
- First edition, 1 caisson, 2001
- All four caissons, 2009
- 2018: National Commemoration: 65 years after the 1953 flood: stories still need to be told
- We have grown to a place that has stories of people and objects with a story as its core (oral history/gifts)

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# Museum

- 90.000 visitors per year
- 135 volunteers
- Small team of professionals (10, part-timers)
- Income must cover the exploitation of the museum: no lasting financial support from organisations
- More financial support for our projects, over the last few years (projectplan 2018: we needed 1.7 million, we so far raised 1.5 million).



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- Canon van Nederland (Dutch History in 50 subjects, Flood nr 42, museumnetwork covers the 50 subjects with objects)
- 'Night on a roof', survivors tell their story to kids (and adults) sitting on a tribune in the shape of a roof





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- Virtual Reality room: what would you do if your house floods?





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- New design for caisson 4 in 2018: The water keeps coming, fighting tomorrow's floods
  - awareness: a never ending battle
  - interactive dilemma games (build a wall of sandbags to protect your house, find innovative ways to deal with water)
  - a wall with realtime Twittermessages of worldwide floods nowadays





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- Digital museum: an app (Watergezicht) and a new website (april 2018)



# National Knowledge and Remembrance Centre Flood 1953

- Recognised by the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (2016)
- Remembrance Centre is the Floodmuseum itself
- Knowledgecentre: development the next few years:
  - A: research: floods are of all times (history/future)  
human aspects, self-reliance, crisismanagement, etc.  
(with partners, local, regional, national and worldwide)
  - B: Library: books, magazines, newspapers, personal letters and diaries
  - C: Archive: films, photographs, oral history etc.
  - D: Online, digital museum with information about the 1953 flood and stories about water in our Story-bank. Information about the Deltaprojects/Deltawerken



Thank you for your hospitality, hope to see you in  
our Floodmuseum soon

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