

The Mighty Crash!



Very early in the morning on Friday, May 28, 2010 Knox was hit by lightning. The first news report was that Knox had collapsed, but that was quickly corrected. A powerful lightning bolt hit the tower knocking down one of the parapets/spires. They may look small when you are staring up at them, but those things are massive. One piece

alone, the piece that shattered the stairs, weighs over 6,000 pounds. It was almost the size of a small car. Other pieces fell on the grass and street, but, miraculously, no one was hurt. One man parked his black car [in picture] then crossed Qu'appelle just as he heard a mighty crash. He turned around to see the limestone falling. Somehow all the big pieces missed his car, a few scratches and minor dents. That's all.

A bit of damage to the roof. But, the only thing that matters, no one was hurt. A building, no matter how beautiful, how linked to our memories, is still just a building. However, the people who built that building sure knew what they were doing. A hit like that on most buildings would have flattened them—but Knox just kind of shuddered, a little quiver, and said, "Ouch, that stings."

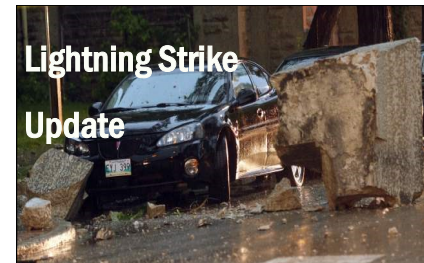


We made national news. International, really. It will cost perhaps \$1 million to repair, but that's why we have insurance. We're hoping to use the large piece that fell some-

how in the newly restored park, and, with the untimely death of Gerry Gray, perhaps there is a way we can honour his \$1 million contribution to the park restoration.

A number of us stood out in the rain for hours. But there were no tears—everyone was safe, no terrible damage, just a reminder of what really matters most: people. Love. Friendship. While we relocated a wedding and funeral the next day, we were back in our pews Sunday morning.

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A few years ago, some of you might remember, Knox was hit by lightning, knocking one of the turrets off the roof of the tower. So whatever happened about that insurance claim?

Well, eventually it was settled. All the work, except replacing the turret, was completed. We took a cash settlement for the turret (which now, as rubble, is a monument in Central Park) and this money has helped us to do some much needed renovations inside the building. The tower roof is secure, and the place where the turret was is now capped.