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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for August 7, 2026

Electric Scotland News

I've been concerned about the wildfires in North America and Europe. I also notice the increasing temperatures across the world with Korea reporting record heat.

I've decided to profile some of the video reports in this weeks news items as I think we need to become more aware of the problems and what we might do to mitigate them.

Where I am, in Ontario, Canada this Province is experiencing it's greatest ever wildfires which is not a record we should be proud of.

I also features a video from Scotland in which I found a very transparent report on a wildfire there that really made me think about how these are reported across the world. This one I included in this weeks My Canadian Experience.

Starting to walk a little without the walker so hopefully by end of August I'll be walker free!

Also it looks like this Friday will see my phone restored so I will be able to receive and make phone calls again. At least when I emailed the tech support folk they said I'd get it back 100% so hope this comes true.

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers and other media

I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland and world news stories that can affect Scotland and as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on search engines it becomes a good resource. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

Here is what caught my eye this week...

Conrad Black: Trump's unfair tariffs are an opportunity for Canada

We must work to improve our competitiveness and standard of living

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/XZZiq>

Spokane Wildfire Turns Catastrophic

3,500+ Acres Burned, Homes Destroyed & Thousands Evacuated

Watch this at:

https://youtu.be/OI-o_1dAEIU?si=YueglplbL-MDfzZU

Living in Scotland

How People Live in Europe's Most Isolated Glens — and Why They Emptied

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/fYYaWsl1pTw?si=w4Sg91iwk-Y7Sq67>

The UK is not built for heat. Here's what needs to change

Drought has been declared across more than half of England as hot, dry weather continues to hit the country, affecting its water supplies. And the extreme heat is not going away. So what can Britain learn from some of the world's hottest countries about how to deal with it?

Watch this at:

https://youtu.be/Voi6_BUc86c?si=wDn_yNT7sSHJ8tz4

U.S. Wildfire Crisis Worsens | 99 Major Fires Burning & 5.25 Million Acres Lost

The U.S. wildfire season continues to intensify as 99 major wildfires burn across the American West under National Preparedness Level 5, the highest wildfire readiness level. More than 5.25 million acres have already burned in 2026—138% above the 10-year average—while extreme heat, critically low humidity, and strong winds continue to fuel rapid fire growth.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/fcjDox945mM?si=AiGG60cNY1XaWVAR>

Wildfires in Europe compared to disaster of World War Two

We follow the wildfires as they spread in Europe and watch as fire crews race against time.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/wEekcBxwLiM?si=o0sB76IKGoEkGCMg>

BC Wildfire Crisis Deepens | Big Bar Complex Nears 160,000 Hectares & Thousands Evacuated - 112,558 views - Aug 3, 2026

British Columbia's wildfire crisis continues to intensify. The massive Big Bar Complex is nearing 160,000 hectares, making it one of the largest active wildfire complexes in Canada. With 131 active wildfires, 57 out of control, thousands of residents evacuated, and extreme heat returning this week, firefighters face increasingly dangerous conditions. Watch this update for the latest wildfire developments, evacuation orders, road closures, and the forecast for British Columbia.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/aywf9h4o3uw?si=TmP3nkgwKglq2Hzm>

Ontario Wildfire UPDATE

Ontario's 2026 wildfire season is the worst on record — but for the first time, there are real signs of progress. As of August 5th, the number of out-of-control fires in Northwestern Ontario has dropped 75% from the July peak. But a new threat arrives today: a severe thunderstorm system with wind gusts up to 90 km/h and lightning moving directly over the fire zones. In this update (August 6, 2026), we break down everything you need to know:

Watch this at:

https://youtu.be/a3X3KenVkis?si=vuA1_k1yonZaTNrF

Electric Canadian

My Canadian Experience

Completed the July entry.

You can read this at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add35.htm

Heralds of Empire

Being the story of one Ramsay Stanhope, Lieutenant to Pierre Radisson in the Northern Fur Trade by A. C. Laut (1902) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/heraldsofempire.pdf>

The Cariboo Trail

A Chronicle of the Gold-fields of British Columbia by Agnes C. Laut (1916) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/bc/caribootrail.pdf>

Sailors in Port

By Commander Dawson, R.N. (1895) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/bc/SailorsinPort.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Moring - Tripping Constantly

By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/hiGm8U80s00>

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 4 Outfit 271 March 1941 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeavermarch1941.pdf>

Electric Scotland

The Harp of Strathnaver

A lay of the Scottish Highland evictions and other poems by Charles Stewart (1884) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/poetry/strathnaver.pdf>

Vision and Design

By Roger Fry (1920) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/art/visiondesign.pdf>

The Native Races of South Africa

A History of the Intrusion of the Hottentots and Bantu into the Hunting Grounds of the Bushmen, the Aborigines of the Country By George W. Stow, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., Edited by George McCall Theal, Litt.D., LL.D. (1905) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/africa/NativeRacesofSou.pdf>

The Battle of Moores Creek Bridge

By Charles E. Hatch Jr. (1969) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/america/moorescreek.pdf>

Hylton Newsletter

Got in the July 2026 newsletter which you can read at:

<https://electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/hylton>

King & Country Combine to Scotch Damaging Tax

Scotland's key whisky sector is already showing signs of new and vibrant sustainability measures vital to ensure the industry thrives in this Digital Era following an easing of Transatlantic economic headwinds.

An article by Bill Magee which you can read at:

<https://electricscotland.com/magee/article0055.htm>

Coo-Oo-Ee!

A Tale of Bushmen from Australia to Anzac by John Butler Cooper (1926) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/australia/coooooeetaleofbus.pdf>

Gaelic with Jason (Jason Bond)

Dynamic, immersive videos that make it easy to think in Scottish Gaelic and speak more naturally - all while helping Gaelic reach future generations.

You can watch these at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@GaelicwithJason>

Story

What German Soldiers Said About the Scottish Highlanders' Bagpipes at Dawn

What did German soldiers really think when Scottish bagpipes echoed across the battlefield before dawn?

This World War II documentary explores the fear, confusion, and reluctant respect inspired by the Scottish Highlanders and their pipers. To German troops, the pipes were not merely music. Their steady drone announced that disciplined soldiers were advancing through darkness, artillery fire, minefields, and machine-gun positions—and were refusing to stop.

The story begins with the First World War reputation of the Highland regiments and the nickname “Ladies from Hell,” associated with kilted Scottish troops. It revisits Piper Daniel Laidlaw, the “Piper of Loos,” who received the Victoria Cross after playing his company forward under intense fire in 1915. His courage helped establish the image of the unarmed piper leading soldiers into battle.

The documentary then moves to October 1942 and the Second Battle of El Alamein. As the British Eighth Army attacked Axis defenses in North Africa, men of the 51st Highland Division advanced through the “Devil’s

Gardens,” a deadly belt of mines, wire, and fortified positions. Company pipers played as Highland battalions moved forward, helping soldiers identify and follow their units amid darkness, dust, explosions, and confusion. For defenders listening from the other side, the music created a powerful psychological effect: it sounded calm, deliberate, and impossible to intimidate.

The film also tells the extraordinary story of Bill Millin, Lord Lovat’s personal piper during the Normandy landings. On June 6, 1944, Millin landed with British commandos on Sword Beach wearing a kilt and carrying his bagpipes. Under fire, he played tunes including “Highland Laddie” and “The Road to the Isles” before accompanying the commandos inland toward Pegasus Bridge. His actions became one of D-Day’s most enduring legends and a symbol of courage under fire.

Beyond the famous stories, this documentary examines why bagpipes could affect battlefield morale so deeply. Their sound carried over long distances, helped Highland soldiers maintain cohesion, reminded them of home, and projected composure to the enemy. Yet that tradition came at a terrible cost. Pipers were exposed, conspicuous, and often deliberately targeted. Many paid with their lives so the soldiers behind them could continue moving.

This is not simply a story about an instrument. It is a story about battlefield psychology, regimental identity, sacrifice, and the strange power of music during modern industrial war. Discover why the pipes remained in veterans’ memories—and why the Scottish Highlanders became enemies whom German soldiers struggled to explain or forget.

It also honors the ordinary young men whose music carried courage across the battlefield, even when every note revealed exactly where they stood.

Watch this video at:

<https://youtu.be/nQwC8NITFeY?si=6556Z6BpgrlsTUk9>

END.

Weekend is almost here and hope it's a good one for you.

Alastair