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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for September 4, 2026

Electric Scotland News

Completed my August 2026 report on My Canadian Experience... some of what I covered in text and videos includes...

Local reports on water shortage in my local area. Continued coverage of wild fires. Carney SIGNS A 70 Billion Dollar Mine Trump Cannot Ignore. Emancipation Day. Government of Canada and City of Toronto to build thousands of new rental homes. Statement by Prime Minister Carney on National Acadian Day. Prime Minister Carney announces the largest clean energy investment in North American history. Buy Canadian Group launches Shoppa.ca. PM Mark Carney speaks to media after suspension of Canada-U.S. trade talks. Prime Minister Carney announces the largest shipbuilding contract in Québec's history. Manitoba's Port of Churchill deemed feasible for year-round shipping. Canada's prime minister HITS Trump over "Lake America" announcement. Canadian Byelections, the Unpopularity of Pierre Poilievre and Mark Carney's Winning Strategy.

My own personal story is at the top of the page in which I comment on my progress in getting to walk again and some internet woes.

You can read this report and view the videos at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add36.htm

Ontario got hit by very high winds and hail storms so much damage but seems my area got away with no damage so that's a positive!!! Have added a couple of videos about this to the September entry of My Canadian Experience at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add37.htm

I seem to be on the mailing list of the Republican party as I've been sent many emails from the President and Vice-President and many others. They obviously don't know that I can't vote in their elections even if I wanted to.

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: This is an opportunity Carney, don't squander it

The prime minister should produce a national policy that defends the irreducible requirements of Canadian sovereignty.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/6kCcA>

Trump is sending Americans to die purely for 'his ego' | Scott Lucas

Professor Scott Lucas joins Maddie Hale to discuss Trump's escalating Iran war, Russia's support for Tehran and threat to NATO, Hegseth's damaging military purge, and why Trump's increasingly ugly attacks on Canada are failing to make Canadians back down.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/TMh5xIXPQms?si=pftMvSAEeh7akm8U>

UN warns of 'supersized' El Niño as countries prepare for impact

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released the latest data on the natural weather phenomenon showing it could be the strongest for more than 70 years and last until at least February 2027.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/RssoQ#selection-863.0-863.202>

Glasgow City Council records worst overspend in years as auditors rate finances red

Glasgow City Council faces £110m funding gap say auditors

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/kwtaO#selection-1347.0-1347.57>

Electric Canadian

The Rich Necham Valley and its possibilities

Fort Fraser (1912) (pdf)

You can read this wee book at:

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

My Canadian Experience - Report for September 2026

Made a star at my September entry which is of course work in progress during this month.

You can follow long at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add37.htm

Canada's Black Watch : the first hundred years, 1862-1962

by Hutchison, Paul P. (Paul Phelps)

You can borrow this book on the Internet Archive at:

<https://archive.org/details/canadasblackwatc0000hutc>

Report on the Sir Sandford Fleming Queen Charlotte Islands 1878

By George M. Dawson, D.S., A.R.S.M., F.G.S. (1880) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

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

My Canadian Experience - Report for August 2026

Local reports on water shortage in my local area. Continued coverage of wild fires. Carney SIGNS A 70 Billion Dollar Mine Trump Cannot Ignore. Emancipation Day. Government of Canada and City of Toronto to build thousands of new rental homes. Statement by Prime Minister Carney on National Acadian Day. Prime Minister Carney announces the largest clean energy investment in North American history. Buy Canadian Group launches Shoppa.ca. PM Mark Carney speaks to media after suspension of Canada-U.S. trade talks. Prime Minister Carney announces the largest shipbuilding contract in Québec's history. Manitoba's Port of Churchill deemed feasible for year-round shipping. Canada's prime minister HITS Trump over "Lake America" announcement. Canadian Byelections, the Unpopularity of Pierre Poilievre and Mark Carney's Winning Strategy.

You can read this report and watch the videos at:

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Thoughts on a Sunday Morning 30th August 2026 - Appreciation

By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

https://youtu.be/KdFMDUsmBx0?si=Rqa_WMuvy1phx-_L

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 4 Outfit 272 March 1942 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeavermarch1942.pdf>

Electric Scotland

Black Watch

By the Author of The Dominie's Legacy (Andrew Picken) in three volumes (1834)

You can read these volumes at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/bwatch/blackwatch.htm>

I might add that I made the first chapter of this set as the story for this week.

Staten Island Church Records

Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (1909) (pdf)

You can read this at:

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

Hall, Russell & Co., Shipbuilders

Footdee, Aberdeen, The 1870's by Stan Bruce (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/aberdeen/HallRussell1870s.pdf>

The Fighting Territorials

By Percy Hurd (1916) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/scotreg/Fighting-Territorials.htm>

The Games of the Match at Chess played between the London and the Edinburgh Chess Clubs

In 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, AND 1828; with notes and back-games; as reported by the Committee of the Edinburgh Chess-Club (1829) (pdf)

You can read this wee book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/games/chess.pdf>

The Christian Doctrine of Prayer

By James Hastings, D.D. (1915) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/bible/The-Christian-Doctrine-of-Prayer.pdf>

The Children's Great Texts of the Bible

By James Hastings in 6 volumes

You can read these volumes at:

<https://electricScotland.com/bible/james-hastings.htm>

Story

THE BLACK WATCH.

CHAPTER I.

To Nature and to Holy Writ

Alone did God the boy commit :

Where flash'd and roar'd the torrent, oft

His soul found wings, and soar'd aloft

COLERIDGE.

The first peep of daylight was just beginning to streak the sky on the seaward side of the old town of Inverness, in the north of Scotland, when a tall Highland youth, dressed in bonnet and trews, stole cautiously forth from the straggling outskirts, and with his face turned southerly, set hastily forward on some boyish adventure. The season of the year was early summer; the time, that discontented and lawless period in Scotland, which occurred between the fifteen and the forty-five; and the lad that now bared his youthful bosom to the breezes of the south, was not quite sixteen years of age.

No sooner had the youth got fairly clear of Inverness, than he ran for several miles, as if he had been chased; never stopping to take breath until he found himself on the border of the long dreary flat called Culloden Moor, which was afterwards to become so famous in the history of his country. As he proceeded forward, clear day having now spread around, the open level that he could see, to a distance behind, showed him that so far there was none in pursuit. When, however, he had reached the farthest edge of the moor, and the hills began to rise to his right in grand- and picturesque irregularity, determining to avoid any possible danger, as well as to gratify his longing to enjoy one glorious week among the glens, he plunged into the outer commencement of the great

wilds of Lochaber.

“Liberty! blessed liberty! is this indeed thyself that I have found at last?” he cried, holding out his arms towards the great blue hills, that now stretched away, mountain beyond mountain, and peak beyond peak, to his astonished admiration. “Have I no master now to slave and harass me? no mercenary mistress to stint me of my food? Have I now no morning’s anxiety, no evening’s terror? Am I really a free being, to run where I please, and seek what I can, in this wide world? Is my feet now fairly on c the bonny blooming heather?’ and can I run, like the red deer, without any one to stop me? Liberty! glorious liberty!” he cried, bounding along the ridge to which he had climbed; “I vow I am almost giddy with the joy of finding thee at last!”

He now mounted to the top of the hill, and sitting himself down on a soft knoll, set himself to consider of his means and prospects. Thrusting his fingers into an opening in the band of his trews, he took out a little leathern purse, and began to reckon his worldly wealth. He had two beautiful silver pennies, the coinage of his former majesty, King George the First— three new farthings, excellently convenient for small change, and not less than six Edinburgh half-pennies, which it became him to husband according to their value. Besides this, he had an Inverness bodle, extremely useful on occasions of economy; and in addition to all, an old-fashioned Scots plack, which being twice the value of the former—namely, the third of a penny—made the whole of this money put together amount to within a fraction above a white sixpence!—a sum which, if properly managed, would go a great way indeed with an abstemious Scotsman.

But considering the splendour of the boy’s plans, all this might have been deemed insufficient, but for a piece of good fortune, which, above and beyond the former, bad put into his hand an actual shilling! with a beautiful king’s crown on one side of it; and when he now reflected on the way it had dropped from the clouds upon him, he saw clearly that Providence favoured his present adventure. The very day previous to that on which he now sat at perfect liberty on the sunny side of a Highland hill, a tall, swaggering Englishman, wearing a great drab coat, and carrying a travelling whip in his hand, had asked him to do him some trifling service; and after staring him in the face, and saying something about its being a pity that he did not go to the south, had thrust into his hand this noble shilling ; and then stumped off as unconcerned as if he had done nothing extraordinary.

There was only one other piece of wealth the lad had, the value of which could not be so correctly ascertained. That was a small old-fashioned gold clasp, which by much persuasion he had been enabled to obtain from the woman with whom he had lived from the time he was an infant until he became apprentice to Daniel M’Vicar. This little personal idol he had always held in the most sacred veneration ; for, whenever he took a desponding thought about his orphan condition, it did him good to con over and contemplate its mysterious initials, from some vague notion of hidden philosophy, that it might one day become of service in helping him to a friend.

Having now collected his thoughts, and matured his resolves, he descended the hill with joy; and stretching forward again down a winding glen, he soon overtook, beside some long patches of green corn, several straggling cottages, that seemed sunning themselves pleasantly in the morning’s beams, and there he found a needful, and to him, delicious refreshment. Darting forward again, wherever his fancy led him, he wandered for days among scenes and places, whose very wildness to him was enchanting, and even whose occasional bald and gruesome sterility seemed to fill his soul with the deep spirit of-nature. All the latent romance of his disposition now came out in glowing enthusiasm, as he lingered among the recesses of those glorious wilds, and saw with his own eyes how nature had shaped out a retreat for herself, to which she invites none to enter but her chosen children; and thus, with his young and buoyant spirit, he first drank in her profound impressions.

During all this, Hector Monro was at little loss for his simple maintenance ; for, whenever he came to a laird’s castle on a hill-side, or a lonely sheiling in a glen, the comely appearance and bold spirit of the boy, procured him a hearty and a delighted Highland welcome. There he partook of the barley-bread and milk, or the bit of braxey mutton, of the kindly cottager, and rested at night on the bed of heath made up for him in the corner; and if, on leaving his kind hosts, he offered to open the strings of his little leathern purse, to give a silver penny for his entertainment, the proffer was refused as almost an insult.

Had we to tell the same story now, applying to our own days, a different representation would require to be given of a people, among whom, at that time, simplicity of life brought a happiness more than they themselves understood; and poverty itself had the sacredness of virtue, accompanied, as it was, by a doric nobleness that made it almost enviable. Before southern luxury and Lowland greed had found their way among the mountains, to the fatal corrupting of landlord and clansmen—making all men mercenary, and none contented—the more than eastern hospitality of the primitive Highlander was such, as well may excite the astonishment of those, whose social sympathies have been improved away, almost into a matter of memory or of history. So common and so genuine was this virtue in those days, among this secluded people, that at length advantage was taken of it by idle persons from the south, who, under the name of Sorners, lived from house to house, upon the kind feelings of those who impoverished themselves to give to the travelling wayfarer, until the imposition became so common as to require the check of legal enactment.

Though the people among whom our wanderer lighted seemed often poor “to a degree,” yet experiencing nothing on his way but kindness and respect, when he retired at night to his fragrant bed, often after partaking of every thing that the cottagers had hoarded, and haply having his fancy delighted with those tales and songs of love and heroism which make so powerful an impression upon the youthful fancy—when, as he lay, he contrasted all this with what he had suffered in the house of his master, in Inverness, the tears would rush into the eyes of the grateful youth, and he rejoiced in spirit, in a more noble view of human nature.

But here, among these romantic mountains, Hector found that he had, after all, no call to abide; the feeling of independence still obtruding in his thoughts: so, with great reluctance, he descended towards the towns, to see what fortune would throw in his way. As he approached the haunts of population and trade, he soon found that the people began to look with longing when he took out his little purse; and that his silver pennies were now but faintly refused. The generosity of his own disposition made him press them whenever they appeared acceptable; and thus his last plack was ultimately paid away, and his white shilling he had a strong reluctance to discount. With the common self-denial of a mountaineer, he had passed a whole day without food, and towards evening came to a river, which it was necessary to cross. Observing a boat fastened to a stake, he was just about to help himself to its assistance, when he saw a man, carrying a bundle, come leisurely down from a small cottage near the bank.

The man, depositing the bundle in the boat, proceeded to unloose it, and then stepped in himself, taking no notice of Hector, who stood watching by. He was taking up the oars, meaning to cross the river, when seeing the boy making no motion to go on board, he thought fit to address him.

"Will she no be for crossing ta ferry?"

"Then you keep a ferry here?"

"Aye, to pe surely—an it's a penny price. Will she go?"

"Will you not let a poor lad get a crossing in your boat, without changing his white shilling?"

"She'll see her nainsel's nose made a cheese for ta mice first," said the man, preparing to pull off.

"Then I'll try whether the stream is half as churlish as yourself," said Hector; and without another word, he dashed in, clothed as he was, his little bundle held firm in his teeth. Breasting the current like a water-dog, he soon swam past the boat; while it was as much as the astonished ferryman could do to get to the other side of the river at the same moment as the adventurous boy.

"Here's a ruination to her trade," said the man, stepping out of his boat. "Wee Deevil ' if she comes her that trick again, by the piper o, Pennycuick, she'll just stick the oar in the back o' her neck afore she's half across, and drown her like a blind puppy."

The alarm of the ferryman was quite natural, from the known reluctance or inability of his countrymen of that period, to pay any species of toll or turnpike-money. A Highlander could never be made to understand why a man should be obliged to pay for “ganging on the ground,” or for getting dryshod across a river; which was the great objection to the military roads just then cut through the Highlands, under Marshal Wade’s direction. Rather than pay so unreasonable a charge, the poorer Scotchwomen made no scruple of exposing their persons in a manner much less excusable than the washing-tub tramping.

Hector never condescended any other answer to this spurt, than to swing round the long end of his wet plaid, until dashing, as if by accident, a shower of water in the face of the enraged ferryman, he ran off laughing down the haugh, with his shilling safe in the bottom of his pocket.

END.

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

Alastair