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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for April 3rd, 2026

Electric Scotland News

My Canadian Experience

Completed the March entry with information on \$7-billion agriculture bet, Ontario Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy presents the 2026 budget, Canada and Nova Scotia sign a new agreement to get major projects built faster, Connecting Canada: The Trade Infrastructure Strategy to Power Canada's Economic Future, Prime Minister Carney secures new partnership with Ontario to cut taxes on housing and boost supply, Canada Just Built a \$14 Billion Mega-Mine to Control the World's Food Supply, Ontario bets on greenhouse farming to boost food sovereignty, 3 Chatham Food Stops That Nearly Broke Me.

You can read this and view the videos at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add31.htm

Dell will be installing my new computer on April 11 which is a Wednesday. As I do this newsletter on a Thursday I am a bit anxious on whether I'll make that date given all the programs I need to install so it's possible that I might actually miss next weeks issue.

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...

Globalisation isn't dead yet

As tariffs and trade barriers mount, we're told that globalisation is yesterday's story. In truth, most countries still haven't followed the US into protectionism - quite the opposite. The genie of global trade is out of the bottle and making the world much richer. Short of a third world war, we won't go back.

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/globalisation-isnt-dead-yet>

Conrad Black: With Iran war, Trump boxes China in
The U.S. is at minimal risk from high oil prices, not so for China

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/TJYoA>

A year on: Four ways Trump's tariffs have changed the global economy

When US President Donald Trump launched his trade war last April, he promised a new era for America - vowing to restore manufacturing, raise money for the government and open up new markets.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c79j1rd92ypo>

How a chance meeting shaped Canadian Jeremy Hansen's mission to the Moon
Long before he was chosen to orbit the Moon in the ongoing Artemis II mission, Jeremy Hansen was a young cadet at the Royal Military College of Canada. He carried a dream - and had a chance interaction that would help shape his future.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy81n289739o>

How English-only condolences undid one of Canada's top CEOs
A fatal collision at LaGuardia Airport last week marked the start of a difficult period for Air Canada, culminating on Monday with its CEO announcing he will soon retire.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cyv1q9gz39do>

I had a sneak preview of 'Scotland's best cheese' - this is what arrived
This fromage will blow your socks off

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/lifestyle/i-had-a-sneak-preview-of-scotlands-best-cheese-this-is-what-arrived-6533042>

How Tartan Week in New York has become such a success
Part festival, part networking event, and part national shop window, Tartan Week in New York is looking to become even bigger

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/lkgKH#selection-545.0-564.0>

Electric Canadian

My Canadian Experience Report for April 2026
Made a start on the April report.

You can read this at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add32.htm

My Canadian Experience Report for March 2026

Prime Minister Carney secures ambitious new partnership with India focused on energy, talent, and technology, Canadian mining industry, The current state of rare earth exploration in Canada, Canadian Resistance Army, Carney in Australia, Canada signs 30 new critical minerals partnerships, Agreement on Canada-EU trade co-operation, Joint statement on Canada-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Carney speaks with Prime Minister of Lebanon Nawaf Salam, Ontario Finance Minister's Annual Budget Address, Iran War, plan to defend, build, and transform the North, Federal government announces funding for spaceport, China's Biggest EV Maker Just Chose Canada as Its North American Beachhead, Hudson Bay LNG, Nova Scotia's \$6 Billion Mega-Deal: Every NATO Weapon Will Soon Run on Canadian AI, "NOWHERE I'd Rather Be!" Canada's Economic Outlook Isn't As BLEAK As Some Want Us To Believe, Canada has achieved the NATO 2% defence spending target, The \$7-billion agriculture bet, NDP Convention, Connecting Canada: The Trade Infrastructure Strategy to Power Canada's Economic Future, Prime Minister Carney secures new partnership with Ontario to cut taxes on housing and boost supply, Canada Just Built a \$14 Billion Mega-Mine to Control the World's Food Supply!, Prime Minister Carney launches new nature strategy to protect Canada's natural environment, Greenhouse farming, Chatham Food Stops.

You can read this report and view the many videos at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add31.htm

Tried and True Recipes

Arranged by the Young Women's Guild of St. Andrew's Church, Kingston (1910) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/triedtruerecipes00stan.pdf>

St. Andrew's

The Rapids Church (pdf)

A brief history of this church can be read at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/Religion/standrewschurch.pdf>

Sketches in Canada

Rambles among the red men by Mrs. Jameson, New Edition (1852) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/sketchesincanada.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning -Palm Sunday - the 29th day of March 2026 - Choices

By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/vMpFKhJ1hKU?si=mazA3akWquzdHFPd>

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 1 Outfit 268 June 1937 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/TheBeaverJune1937.pdf>

Electric Scotland

Reports on the State of certain Parishes in Scotland

Made to His Majesty's Commissioners for Plantation of Kirks, &c. presented to the Maitland Club by Alexander MacGrigor (1835) (pdf)

You can read this report at:

[https://electricScotland.com/history/records/reportsonstatec00courgoog%20\(1\).pdf](https://electricScotland.com/history/records/reportsonstatec00courgoog%20(1).pdf)

Orkney and the Hudson's Bay Company

An article taken from The Beaver Magazine September 1937 Part 3 (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/orkney/orkneyhudson03.pdf>

Edinburgh Health Society

Health Lectures for the People, added lectures 5 - 8.

You can read these lectures at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/medical/edinburghhealthsoc.htm>

Who is Frank Shaw?

Added his obituary from 2023 and also an article on his \$225,000 donation for studies of Robert Burns.

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/familytree/frank/frank.htm>

Traveling Buoy Park

A buoy that travelled from South Carolina to Scotland and returned home.

Our thanks to Pat for sending this in to us and it can be read at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/america/southcarolina/Buoy.htm>

Scotland's Oldest Heritage Body Fundraising Petition Plan for Court of Lord Lyon Coat of Arms - An article by Bill Macgee.

Scotland's - if not the planet's - oldest heritage body has been going since the very early days of the United States of America Declaration of Independence but Sir Walter Scott's society has never had a permanent home to call its own.

You can read this article at:

<https://electricScotland.com/magee/article0048.htm>

The Discoverie and Historie of the Gold Mines in Scotland

By Stephen Atkinson (1825) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/business/goldminesinscotland.pdf>

Story

Scotland's Great Educational Lie:

The Price of "Free" by Annemarie Ward Jun 18th, 2025

By now, it should be obvious, but in Scotland, the obvious must be restated with tedious frequency that when the Scottish Government declares something to be "free," it is almost always disguising the fact that someone, somewhere, is being made to pay through the nose. In the case of higher education, it is the Scottish student. Bright, ambitious, qualified and quietly shafted.

The SNP, still basking in the glow of its long-expired moral mandate, proudly declares that higher education in Scotland is "free at the point of delivery." This, of course, is a fiction. It is paid for, inadequately and unsustainably, by the state, which then imposes rigid caps on the number of Scottish students allowed into their own national universities. Why? Because Scottish students are too expensive.

You read that correctly. A Scottish student is, under this magnificent regime of "equity," a financial liability. Their places are capped. Their presence is penalised. And all this is carried out in the name of "inclusion."

It gets worse. The universities, squeezed between financial realism and political dogma, have responded predictably: they have turned away from the Scottish applicant and turned towards the fee-rich plains of England and the global market. International students are not just welcomed, they are wooed, because they pay ten times what a Scot pays. Or rather, what the government permits a university to charge for a Scot. It's not "free" education. It's rationed access to a failing bureaucracy masquerading as egalitarianism.

Let me illustrate, lest the abstractions lull us into apathy. Picture two young women. Both cousins. Both from Scotland. One lives in a comfortable postcode, a postcode, mind you, not a palace. She studies hard, achieves all the necessary grades, and applies for medicine at Glasgow. The other, from a so-called "deprived" area, achieves below the stated requirement for her desired course, teaching but is accepted anyway. Why? Because postcode now outweighs preparation. Because one's geographical location is now a moral credential.

This grotesque inversion of justice is then paraded as progress. But what it actually represents is something far more sinister, the institutionalisation of patronage. The codification of a caste system in which ability is secondary to bureaucratic virtue-signalling.

One can almost admire the brazenness. The architects of this system will look you square in the face, with their most compassionate expressions, and tell you that rejecting students who exceed the academic threshold is, in fact, a form of fairness. Orwell, if he were available, might have called it doublethink. I'd call it gaslighting with a government grant.

What we are witnessing is not the pursuit of excellence, nor the expansion of opportunity. It is the managed decline of merit, a levelling-down operation overseen by a class of administrators and politicians who would rather boast about inputs than outcomes. They call it widening access. In practice, it is the deliberate constriction of aspiration.

But this degradation doesn't begin at university. It starts far earlier, in Scotland's hollowed-out school system now in its eighteenth year under SNP rule. New data shows the attainment gap between the poorest and richest pupils is at a five-year high. In Scotland's wealthiest areas, just 3 per cent of school leavers fail to reach a "positive destination" (education, training, or employment). In the poorest areas, it's more than 10 per cent. That's not an attainment gap it's an opportunity chasm.

Nicola Sturgeon once asked to be judged on closing this gap. A decade on, the verdict is brutal. The poorest pupils are 23 per cent less likely to leave school with even one National 5 qualification. At Higher level, the gap stretches to 38 per cent. Violence, truancy, absenteeism, and classroom weapons are surging. Scotland's Pisa scores have dropped in every subject, science, maths, reading. If this is what "progressive" leadership delivers, it's a wonder there are any aspirations left to widen at all.

And where, one might ask, are the so-called university leaders? The chancellors and vice-chancellors who know precisely what is happening, who admit, in whispers, over conference coffee, that this cannot last? They are busy issuing press releases about "diversity" while the institutions they supposedly steward sink into deficit. Edinburgh and St Andrews, swimming in foreign fees, ride high. The University of the West of Scotland, home to the very students this policy claims to help, sinks into the red. Austerity for the many; affluence for the few.

One thing to bear in mind is that Scotland's Russell Group universities are now feeling the pinch, too. Their over-reliance on the international student market particularly Chinese enrolments is beginning to backfire. As global numbers contract, these elite institutions have pivoted sharply toward the 'widening participation' agenda, suddenly discovering a benevolent interest in Scottish students they previously ignored. But this is not a renaissance of national opportunity it is a strategic play for funding survival. And it deepens the crisis for Scotland's post-92 institutions, which now find themselves further squeezed by the very policy designed to empower them.

To call this equality is not merely delusional, it is malevolent.

And what of the young woman, let us return to her, who earned her place but was denied it? What do we say to her? "Sorry, dear, wrong postcode"? Are we now so morally compromised, so ideologically corrupted, that this passes for social justice?

The SNP's tuition-free façade is not just economically unsound, though it is that, it is a moral failure. It sells the illusion of fairness to the public, while enshrining unfairness in policy. It flatters the poor while entrenching their segregation. It punishes the diligent while rewarding the accidental geography of birth.

And all of this is propped up by an educational system in freefall a system that cannot produce equity because it no longer produces excellence. The very children the policy claims to uplift are being failed at every stage, failed in classrooms plagued by violence and disruption; failed by narrowing subject choice; failed by standards that fall while slogans rise. This is not the egalitarian dream, it is the bureaucratic smothering of potential, from school gate to graduation hall.

It is time, past time, that we stopped calling this system "progressive." It is regressive in the most literal sense: it drags Scotland back into a tribal allocation of privilege, where merit must kneel before metrics, and success is something to be

administratively redistributed.

A country that punishes its best in order to flatter its worst instincts will not remain a country of opportunity for long. And Scotland, for all its myth-making about egalitarianism, is fast becoming a cautionary tale, a land where equality is a slogan, merit is a liability, and the word “free” is the most expensive lie of all.

END.

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

Alastair