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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for May 22nd, 2026

Electric Scotland News

Lost Internet connection as my Juniper box developed a fault. I have a business account with Cogeco meaning they should come out within 24 hours but as this happened on the Friday before the long weekend it meant it was Tuesday before they turned up. So 4 days without Internet access which was a royal pain.

My Canadian Experience

Added more videos this week which includes: Prime Minister Carney announces forthcoming National Electricity Strategy, What Role Does Canada Play in Drone Development?, Canada and Alberta strike agreement to diversify our exports, reduce emissions, and build a stronger economy, This Subway Will Change Canada's Most Important City and more.

You can follow along at:

http://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add33.htm

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...

Scunnered Scots and rampant Greens

IN 1988, Ken Livingstone published a book entitled 'If Voting Changed Anything, They'd Abolish it'. The Holyrood election of 7 May 2026 demonstrated that sense of disillusionment.

Read more at:

<https://thinkscotland.org/2026/05/scunnered-scots-and-rampant-greens/>

Conrad Black: How to give new purpose to Canada and Britain

Revive the old Commonwealth

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/jAGlj>

Swinney unveils new Cabinet - some surprises and maybe a snub

The First Minister has brought in new faces giving his top team - reduced from 12 members to nine - a fresh look.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/kMdS0#selection-1651.3-1655.95>

Why we should explore space

Space exploration lifts the human spirit: rather than asking “Why?”, we should ask “Why not?”

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/C0rtx>

Scottish island complete with 'true sense of seclusion' comes up for auction

Interest is expected to be high in the Summer Isles retreat

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/scottish-island-complete-with-true-sense-of-seclusion-comes-up-for-auction-8556065>

Outstanding Scottish chocolatier wins big at international awards

Iain Burnett, the Highland Chocolatier, has struck gold again at the International Chocolate Awards, held at the prestigious ShowColat in Bordeaux, France.

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/regions/inverness-highlands-and-islands/highland-chocolatier-wins-big-at-international-chocolate-awards-8551932>

The EU is getting worse

Ursula von der Leyen's left-wing managerial agenda is failing

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/73lCg#selection-713.21-713.82>

Who is Scotland's new Deputy First Minister Jenny Gilruth?

Gilruth, who has represented Mid Fife and Glenrothes since 2016, takes up the role after building a ministerial career spanning transport, international affairs and education. Her appointment also places a trusted Swinney ally at the centre of government as he begins a new parliamentary term.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/1utK8#selection-1703.3-1703.296>

Canada Leaves USA In The Dust – The Numbers Are In!

Latest Inflation number show Canada outperforming USA again. Is it enough for regular Canadians? While this is an anti USA rant it does explain how inflation works.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/8ST8tE0Arto?si=l3Rj7F1jC-clWE2Z>

Electric Canadian

Sketches of Our Town: Kenora & Lake of the Woods, Ontario

A video on the Internet Archive

You can watch this at:

https://archive.org/details/sot2_20210319

Bob North by Canoe and Portage

A twelve year old boy explores the Albany river and James Bay, Canada by Robert Carver North (1928) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/children/bobnorthbycanoe.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 17th day of May 2026 - Victoria, et al

From The Rev. Nola Crewe

I hope you are lifting a toast to that long-serving monarch who managed to work with politicians and diverse peoples to unite this far-flung dominion and give it a persona far different from the republic to the south.

For that alone we owe her our gratitude.

But that is not the only holiday in Canada . . .

Let us consider the ideals and ideas that give us breaks to enjoy and values to honour.

My THOUGHTS . . .

https://youtu.be/Wat6haBn_IU

Blessings

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The Canadian Mosaic

The making of a Northern nation by John Murray Gibbon (1939) (pdf)

England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands, Romania, Belgium, Scandinavia, The Eastern Baltic, Finland, Poland, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, The Balkans, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Russia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania, Italy, Spanish Peninsula, The Hebrew.

You can read this book at:

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

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 4 Outfit 269 March 1939 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeavermarch1939.pdf>

Electric Scotland

City Grandee Martin Gilbert Asia Strategy Offers Key Pointers to Scots Ministers

Scottish Government ministers, those re-elected and newbies, about to launch a new style high-growth unit to hopefully boost the country's economy are being urged to embrace a novel two-way business ventures and investments approach based on Asia. An article by Bill Magee.

You can read this article at:

<https://electricScotland.com/magee/article0051.htm>

A view of the British Empire, more especially Scotland; with some proposals for the improvement of that country, the extension of its fisheries, and the relief of the people.

By John Knox (1785)

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/lifestyle/JohnKnox.htm>

An Drochaid - The Bridge

Vol 52 Issue 1 Spring 2024 Newsletter

Includes an article on page 4 about the MacTavish and Thomson situation.

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/m/clancreepspring2024.pdf>

Emigration to Canada and the Clandonald Colony

A video on YouTube.

You can watch this at:

https://youtu.be/X5cbTjBobTw?si=CDW1fCsP3dHG50e_

Biographical Sketch of Oliver Pollock, Esq..

Of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, United States Commercial Agent at New Orleans and Havana, 1776-1784 with genealogical notes on his descendants also sketches of other Pollock families settled in Pennsylvania by Rev. Horace Edwin Hayden (1883) (pdf)

You can learn more about him at:

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

The Stirlings of Keir, and their family papers

By Sir William Fraser (1858) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/stoz/stirlingsofkeir.pdf>

Comments in refutation of pretensions advanced for the first time on the above book

By John Riddell (1860) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/stoz/commentsinrefut.pdf>

Story

A Hundred Year Old Handshake

From the newsletter of the Ewing Family Farm, Ontario

<https://ewingfamilyfarm.ca/collections/all>

Earlier this week I was cleaning up a tree that had fallen out from a fence line into one of our fields. Funny thing is, that's still what I call every farm boundary, even if there hasn't been an actual fence there for as long as I can remember. And I think most every farmer around here calls them the same thing too.

"Fence line."

Kind of peculiar when you think about it. Whole conversations about fence lines... with no fences in sight.

Anyhow, when I dragged the fallen tree out into the lane, I noticed something at the base of it. There it was — old barb wire grown right through the middle of the trunk.

Now this particular farm has not had livestock on it in my lifetime. Dad never had any there either. So it's been at least sixty or seventy years since a hoof touched that land, yet there was that old fence, swallowed by the tree like nature had slowly tried to erase it.

And the first thing I did was head straight into the brush looking for more.

Why?

I got thinking about that afterward. I wasn't really looking for old barb wire. I was looking for reassurance. Because if that tree held the last piece of fence, and it was now gone, then one of the last visible markers of where that farm began and ended would disappear with it.

Sure enough, a little farther down the ditch bank was another young tree growing up around the same old wire. And honestly, I felt relieved seeing it there.

Now you're probably thinking... "Rod, aren't modern farms using fancy GPS technology for all this nowadays?"

Well... yes and no.

Truth is, farming has become incredibly precise. We plant fields now with GPS steering systems that can drive long rows almost perfectly parallel from one end of the field to the other. The equipment guiding today's farms is amazingly accurate.

But here's the funny part.

Just last week, one of our neighbours came down the lane in his little side-by-side. He had his tractor GPS system temporarily mounted in it and was out marking some field lines. Over the years, the two of us have always tried to keep our planting lines parallel along one particular tree-less farm boundary. Some years we do better than others. Usually whoever plants first sort of becomes the guide for the other fellow.

But this year he got smart.

He stopped and asked me for the exact GPS heading angle from our system. I pulled it up and gave him the number. A very accurate compass heading calculated from satellites floating around in space somewhere.

And that was it.

No discussion about where the actual line was.

Just an angle.

At first glance that probably doesn't even make sense, because a heading alone is useless unless you know where to start from.

But we both already knew what would happen next.

We said our goodbyes, and I watched him drive that little machine over toward the old rusty barely-standing fence post in the corner of the farm. One lonely steel post pounded into the ground by somebody's grandpa — maybe even somebody's great-great-grandpa.

He stopped beside it, tapped a button on the GPS screen, and marked the line.

That old post became the starting point for all the modern technology.

And standing there watching him, that's when it hit me.

I had never shook Adam's hand and agreed where that line should be.

But somewhere along the way, my great-great... honestly who knows how many greats back... grandfather must have. Him and another farmer stood in that field at some point, settled on a line, and shook hands on it.

No paperwork.

No GPS coordinates.

No satellite maps.

Just a handshake between two farmers.

And somehow, after all these years, all the changes in farming, and all the technology we now have...

that handshake still means something.

Farmer Rod

END.

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

Alastair