

Georgetown Highland Games, north west of Toronto. Dancers from several branches, including children and teenage classes, help to swell the numbers. The demonstration is co-ordinated by Nora Sutherland, a local teacher and past Chair of the Teachers' Association of Canada (TAC) who is probably more widely-known as a former manager of TACBooks. We have danced at Georgetown for over twenty years, and we haven't suffered as wet a demonstration as we encountered this year.

As the mass pipe bands entered the field, it started to rain. The rain got heavier as the young Highland dancers performed the Fling. The country dancers then went onto the field to perform their seven-minute selection in heavy rain. As we marched off the rain changed to drizzle and stopped shortly thereafter. By that time there were 64 very wet, but still smiling country dancers!



Nora Sutherland at the wettest Georgetown Highland Games for over twenty years.

On Sunday June 13 members of several south western Ontario and northern New York State branches along with the TAC Executive attended a celebration to honour June Shore's 90th birthday. Over 100 friends and relatives came to celebrate with June. Fred Moyes provided musical entertainment and a demonstration team from Hamilton danced *Mrs. Shore's Strathspey*, a dance devised by Charles Ryer from Oregon, USA. June is well known as an experienced Scottish country dance teacher, tutor and mentor and is a founding member of TAC. For 24 years she was the Membership Secretary and she also served as Publications chairman for TAC. In 1990 June was awarded the RSCDS Scroll of Honour. Congratulations June!

Europe

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"Why do you dance Scottish country dances if you are Hungarian?" This is the most frequently asked question, when I invite people to come along and dance with the Budapest Scottish Dance Club. I never understand this question. Why do I sing Scottish or Irish songs? Why did I learn to dance Greek dances? Why do I read books



Members of the Budapest Scottish Dance Club.

by foreign authors? Isn't the fun of dancing, singing or reading a universal pleasure?

There is a more straightforward explanation. For Hungarian dances you need a constant partner to reach perfection. For Scottish dances you need to be a team player, who is ready to enjoy the feeling of dancing together. This common affection towards Scottish country dancing brought together the founding members of our club, which affiliated to the RSCDS in 1992. In 1999 we set up the Budapest Scottish Dance Club (BSTK), a self-sustaining, non-profit association. The aims of the club are to make Scottish country dancing popular in Hungary through performances, regular public dances and the teaching of dances, and to arrange programmes for club members, participate in international events and organise such events in Hungary.



A ceilidh in Budapest.

We hold ceilidhs once a month for the general public, the club members (currently 42 paying members) meet once a week, and every year we start a beginners' course in September.

The most important event of our club is the international dance weekend that we organise every other year. Next year we will have our 7th International Ball and Weekend with Patricia Houghton teaching and James Gray and Andrew Lyon playing in the most special hotel of Budapest on 24-27 March (more info on www.bstkh.hu). The tourist programme will also take you to Pécs, the European Capital of Culture.

Japan

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Our dancers continue their classes all through the summer without a break and, with a summer moon shining brightly above, dancers in Japan continue to enjoy Scottish country dancing. Some groups even run their Annual Dance during an afternoon with temperatures as high as 35C/95F. Air-conditioning does help!

Tokai Branch held its Weekend at Numazu, on the southern side of Mt. Fuji, in March. Gale force winds swept over the area for 3 days. Dancers enjoyed *The Whistling Wind*, *The Munro Rant*, *The Shetland Shepherdess*, *The Abbot of Unreason* and the Society's dances, as well as some ballroom dances under the guidance of teacher, Diane Rooney, with fiddle music played by Kana Otake. This was Diane's first experience of teaching a class of more than 100 dancers. Some Japanese teachers taught men's Highland dancing as well as some of the MacNab dances.

In June 100 dancers attended the Tokyo Branch Weekend which included the AGM. This year the event was held at Lake Saiko on the northern side of Mt. Fuji. Two classes of mixed experience were taught by seven Branch teachers with music provided by five musicians. Unfortunately, the keyboard provided by the hotel was not up to standard. We expect an improvement in 2011!

The latter part of April into early May was a busy period for the Japanese branches with examinations for would-be teachers taking place. 14 candidates took Part 1 and 11 candidates took Part 2.

To celebrate Saitama Branch's 10th Anniversary next year a Weekend Festival will be held in April with music played by Iain MacPhail and his Band.

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