

Dungannon Doings



December 2025

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers, instructors and members who have worked so hard to make 2025 a success. I would like to add a special shout out to Larry and Janet Wilkins who have attended nearly all of the programs at the MacKay Centre-Dungannon since our opening in June! Thank you for your fabulous support!

Calling to register: Just a reminder that since all programs need a minimum number for people to attend, we definitely need to know if you're coming, ahead of time. This will make sure that the program will be a success. Please call ahead to let us know you are interested so we don't have to cancel any programming at the last minute.

Christmas Closure: After the wrap-up of programming Friday Dec 19th the Centre will close for two weeks over Christmas and New Years. Programs resume Tuesday January 6 2026. I hope during this time you will have the opportunity to connect with Family, Friends and neighbors.

As you may have already heard; I have booked a vacation to see New York City right at Christmas time. I fly out Wednesday Dec 17 and return Dec 24th. Not to worry though Matt will be hosting Thursday Tai Chi and Friday Coffee & Chat's and Euchre. I look forward to sharing my experience with you upon my return.

January will be upon us before we know it especially with the holiday closure, be sure to watch for information on January programs and news letter. As a reminder for everyone's safety we will be following the Brookside buses, if buses are canceled the Centre will be closed.

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Check out our website and follow us on
Facebook

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Facebook Page
MacKay Centre - Dungannon

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OACAO Conference Recap

As I am sure many of you are excited to hear about and are already asking, here is a recap on my experience with the OACAO Conference. I arrived in Mississauga at the hotel late Sunday Nov 2 afternoon and attended a social/meet and greet. During the social we played song BINGO. When the instructions came out, I may have panicked as the host plays a song from the 50's, 60's or 70's (20 years before I was even born). We had to figure out the song and mark the song title off on our bingo cards. There is an opportunity for us to bring song BINGO to the MacKay so be sure to watch for that fun in future calendars.

As some of you are aware, I am not a morning person so thankfully when Monday programming was scheduled for 7:15am I was only an elevator ride away. Our day began with keynote speaker; Nora Spinks who provided us with empowering wisdom to embrace the wellbeing of all. noting we can not help others unless we take care of ourselves first. The rest of the morning and afternoon was spent attending different workshops and the tradeshow. I was slightly disappointed by the workshops and it may have been on me, but I was expecting to have walked away from the workshops with more information on how to implement the topics back here. The workshops were designed more in a format that were promoting businesses that provide the related service. I was able to grab a couple of tips/tricks from the workshops that have given the background to be able to design and implement similar programs here.

The trade show on the other hand, had some great vendors with lots of helpful resources and programs that we can implement. I am working on getting some of the informational packets from the vendors sent to us and at this time they may have already been added to both locations information stations. Some of the programs that stood out to me were Granny Basketball, Mood walks, Senior Women Living Together, Heart @ home, Senior Discovery Tours, Consumer Protection Ontario, Men's Sheds Canada and Tindall. All of these organizations are interested in serving our area with some currently in the expansion process.

Monday wrapped up with an evening Gala. During which I found out there is such thing as the wrong spoon, the table I was at (the rowdy table) caught the hotel staffs attention and one of my table mates had their spoon snatched up by the hotel staff. Turns out we were all using our coffee spoon to eat soup. The rest of dinner was spent hiding the fact we were eating soup with a coffee spoon from the hotel staff. The Gala entertainment was a Magic show and I was called up to the stage for one of the tricks, during which I was instructed to select a colour then was told what to colour and then repeated the process until I had coloured my "perfect blind date". I have added a photo so if anyone happens to see her, please let me know.



Tuesday morning wrapped up the conference with Rami Shami speaking to us about his experience of years working in hospice. Following Rami there were lightning talks where select organizations shared their tips and tricks to successful programs they have implemented at their centers.

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Lets Keep Moving!

Tai Chi is continuing on Thursday morning but it is going to look a little different for the winter months, we will be virtually bringing Dr. Addam Potts (the man who trained Tanya) into the space by projecting her onto the screen. Tai Chi continues to be held from 10-11am and \$2.00 per class. Tanya teaches Sun Flow Tai Chi which is an easy movement exercise designed to help build strength and flexibility.



Thursday Luncheon—Come join us for lunch



December only has one date this month and it is our Christmas luncheon. Lunch is \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non members. On the menu is coleslaw, dressing, turkey, mashed potatoes, root veg mix, and assorted pies.

Lunch is being held Thursday December 11th at noon in the upper hall. **Please RSVP by Friday Dec 5th, 2025.**

To add a little extra excitement to our Christmas lunch, I encourage you to wear your festive sweater. Whether is it a cherished family heirloom or an ugly sweater you purchased for one of those "*all to famous ugly sweater contests*", we want to see them! There will be prizes!

Did Someone Say Dinner is Ready?

Much like our November soup exchange we are going to be having a December Casserole exchange. Tuesday December 2nd 1-3pm, Bring your favorite 9 X 13 casserole dish and containers for your samples. Each participant will leave with a container of each of the casseroles.

Please register by November 28th.



Afternoon of yule

Join Logan and Jane for an afternoon of Yule. You will leave with 2 yule logs. Jane will lead you through the history of the yule log and making a decorative log out of foraged natural materials. Logan will lead you through the well know yule log of today made out of cake. Thursday December 4th 1-3pm. \$40.00 per person. **Please RSVP by November 28th.**

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Social Fridays

Please make a special note that there will be no Friday programs on Friday December 5th as the center will be getting set-up and vendors moving into the space in preparation for the "Christmas in the Country Market" happening Saturday December 6th from 9am-2pm. We will be selling soup in take out containers at the event.

Men's Coffee and Chat - meets every Friday 10-11am by Donation

Ladies Stitch, Chat & Coffee/Tea - Fridays 10-11am by Donation

Euchre - continues Friday afternoons at 1pm with a new winning prize of a free MacKay lunch voucher. \$2.00 per player

I will be away for Friday December 19th but, never fear, Matt will be running programming that day. All programs are being offered at normal times.

Time to dig out those Christmas Cookie Cutters!

Stop by for an afternoon of Christmas cookie exchanges and holiday mocktails. The exchange will take place on Wednesday December 10th 1-3pm.



Each person will leave with a 1/2 dozen of each participants cookies. Logan will call all registered participants late Thursday December 4th afternoon to let them know how many dozen cookies to bring. In order to make sure the event is a success,

Please RSVP by December 4th so we know how many are interested in attending.

Is your team ready? Puzzlers get ready!

Build your team of up to 4 people for Tuesday December 9th 1-3pm. To challenge others in completing a jigsaw puzzle. Each team will get a 500 piece puzzle to see who can complete it the fastest. The winning team will get bragging rights until next puzzle competition



I am Looking for Help!

If you have not heard the MacKay Centre—Dungannon has put a table into the Christmas in the Country Market on Decembre 6th. I am looking for helpers on Friday Dec 5th to make and portion soup. I am also looking for Volunteers to help sell the soup on the 6th at the market. Please give me a call at the office if you have an hour or two to help!

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Christmas Wreath making workshop

Join Logan in an Christmas wreath workshop to add a little homemade Christmas spirit to your front door. Tuesday December 2nd 10am—12pm. \$25.00 per participant. **Please RSVP by Friday November 28th** The Final design will be determined



Art With Hailey

Hailey of No Judgment Art will be in Dungannon twice in December. Both of these projects will be a Christmas theme to them. Each class is \$15.00 and requires pre registration.

Tuesday December 9th 10am-12pm we will be paint a Christmas tree and snowman. If you would like to participate please register by Thursday December 5th.



Tuesday December 16th 10am-12pm we will be painting a winter scene. If you would to join this art class please register by Friday December 12th.



Centre Pieces with Pentland Farms

Pentland farms will be at the Centre Tuesday December 16th -3pm. They are leading the way though creating fresh center pieces perfect for your Christmas table. \$30.00 per participant, please **register by Tuesday December 9th**

Photo for Reference Only



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Golden Ukulele Group

We Continue our partnership with the Huron Alzheimer's Society and the Dungannon Youth Group to be able to bring Ukulele lessons and programing to Dungannon. This opportunity has been made possible by us being able to zoom in as a collective group. This group is intended for but not limited to those who have a basic understanding of the Ukulele. The group runs on Tuesdays 10-11:30.

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Community Events Happening in Dungannon

Christmas In The County Market

Located at both the Dungannon Community Centre and the Dungannon Ag Hall on December 6th 9am-2pm admission by donation.



Christmas in the Park

December 6th at 7pm the Dungannon Community Alliance is hosting Christmas in the park on main street by the mailboxes. The activities include, Tree lighting, Hot Chocolate and Caroling. Join us for a fun & festive evening.



Looking for a way to volunteer?

The Dungannon Senior Citizen's O/A Dungannon Community Centre is looking for community members interested in joining the board of directors to start in 2026. This board of directors uses a consultation method. If you think this is something that may be of interest to you, please reach out to Logan for more information.

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MacKay Events Coming in January

January and February can be very tricky months with the weather. I am working to bring in more virtual and low commitment activities. If you have any games or activities you would like to see or try to help pass the time and beat the winter Blues, please let me know! I would be happy to add them to our growing list of programs.

Art with Hailey

We are going to be doing a virtual art class with Hailey. She has offered to set up an introductory 6-week sketching class that will be held virtually. You will have the choice each week to either join from the comfort of your warmed home or, if the weather is cooperative and it is safe to travel you, can join me at the MacKay Centre Dungannon and we will zoom in and project the steps. Stay-Tuned for more details to come in the January news letter.

Hailey will be at the MacKay Centre Dungannon Tuesday January 6th to kick off the new year with a water colour painting. We will be painting a fun winter scene, please call and leave a message or email to **register by January 2nd**. \$15.00 per participant.



Zoom Presentations

Starting January 9th we are going to be starting a winter Zoom series with a many different topics. These presentation will be hosted over Zoom every Friday for one hour, starting at 11am. They will feature a wide variety of topics and speakers. Stay tuned for more information. If you have any suggestions for a topic or interest, please let me know.



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December 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 	2 10-12 Christmas Wreath Workshop 10-11:30 Golden Uke 1-3 Casserole exchange	3	4 10am Tai Chi 1-3 afternoon of Yule with Logan & Jane	5 No programs running (Country Market prep)
8	9 10-12 art with Hailey 10-11:30 Golden Uke 1-3 Puzzle Competition	10 1-3pm Christmas Cookies Exchange and Mocktails	11 10am Tai Chi Noon Luncheon—Christmas Dinner	12 10am men's group 10 am ladies coffee and chat 1pm Euchre
15	16 10-12 art with Hailey 10-11:30 Golden Uke 1-3 Christmas Centre Pieces	17	18 10am Tai Chi	19 10am men's group 10 am ladies coffee and chat 1pm Euchre
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
Centre Closed For Christmas				
29	30	31 New Years Eve	Jan - 1 New Years Day	Jan - 2
Centre Closed For Christmas				