

Annual Killam Celebration

Monday, November 17, 2025, 1:00pm McInnes Room, 6136 University Avenue



The Killams



Born in modest circumstances in 1885 at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Izaak Walton Killam began his business career at the age of 18 as a junior clerk in the Yarmouth branch of the Union Bank of Halifax. He was soon transferred to the Bank's head office in Halifax, where his talent and reputation caught the attention of Max Aitken (later Lord Beaverbrook), who was in the process of setting up the Royal Securities

Corporation. In 1904, Aitken persuaded Mr. Killam to join Royal Securities, which became the foundation of Mr. Killam's remarkable financial career. By 1914, Mr. Killam had replaced Lord Beaverbrook as president of Royal Securities, and soon after acquired Beaverbrook's shares in the firm. For 40 years, Mr. Killam served as president of Royal Securities; in that time, the company became one of Canada's most influential investment houses and Izaak Walton Killam established himself as one of the outstanding figures in Canadian financial history.

Mrs. Dorothy Killam, née Dorothy Brooks Johnston, was born in St. Louis in 1899, of moderately affluent parents. She was well-schooled, with a good knowledge of French and German, athletic and widely travelled. Unlike her reticent husband, Dorothy Killam was an extrovert who loved company and people generally. After she and Mr. Killam were married in 1922, they lived in Montreal, the centre of the Killam financial empire.

Izaak Walton Killam died suddenly and unexpectedly in 1955. He left all of his substantial estate to his wife, who subsequently demonstrated her own financial acumen by vastly increasing the fortune over the next 10 years. When Mrs. Killam died in 1965, she left a Will which gave effect to the plans she and her husband had discussed frequently in the later years of his life. While Mrs. Killam's Will for the most part reflected the intentions of her husband, it also included a substantial bequest to build a children's hospital in Halifax as a memorial to Mr. Killam as well as other tributes to his memory.

Program

Welcome

Elder Ann LaBillois, Dalhousie Elder-in-Residence

Opening Remarks and a Conversation of Killam Scholarship's Impact at Dalhousie

Dr. Christian Blouin, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Dr. Kim Brooks, President and Vice-Chancellor

'Beyond Brilliant' Killam Research Impact Presentation

Hina Batool, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Conversation with Bernie Miller, on behalf of the Killam Trustees

Dr. Kim Brooks, President and Vice-Chancellor Mr. Bernard Miller, Killam Managing Trustee

'Beyond Brilliant' Killam Research Impact Presentation

Bimpe Ayoola, Faculty of Computer Science

Overview of Killam Programs:

Killam Memorial Chairs
Faculty of Science Professorships and Prize
Killam Postgraduate Medical Scholarships

'Beyond Brilliant' Killam Research Impact Presentation

Dr. Elena Koning, Department of Psychiatry Research

Overview of Killam Programs:

Killam Postdoctoral Fellows Killam Predoctoral Scholars

Certificate Presentations:

George Cooper Killam Prize Winners

'Beyond Brilliant' Killam Research Impact Presentation

Dr. Blaine Fiss, Department of Chemistry

Closing Remarks

Dr. Christian Blouin, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Dr. Kim Brooks, President and Vice-Chancellor



