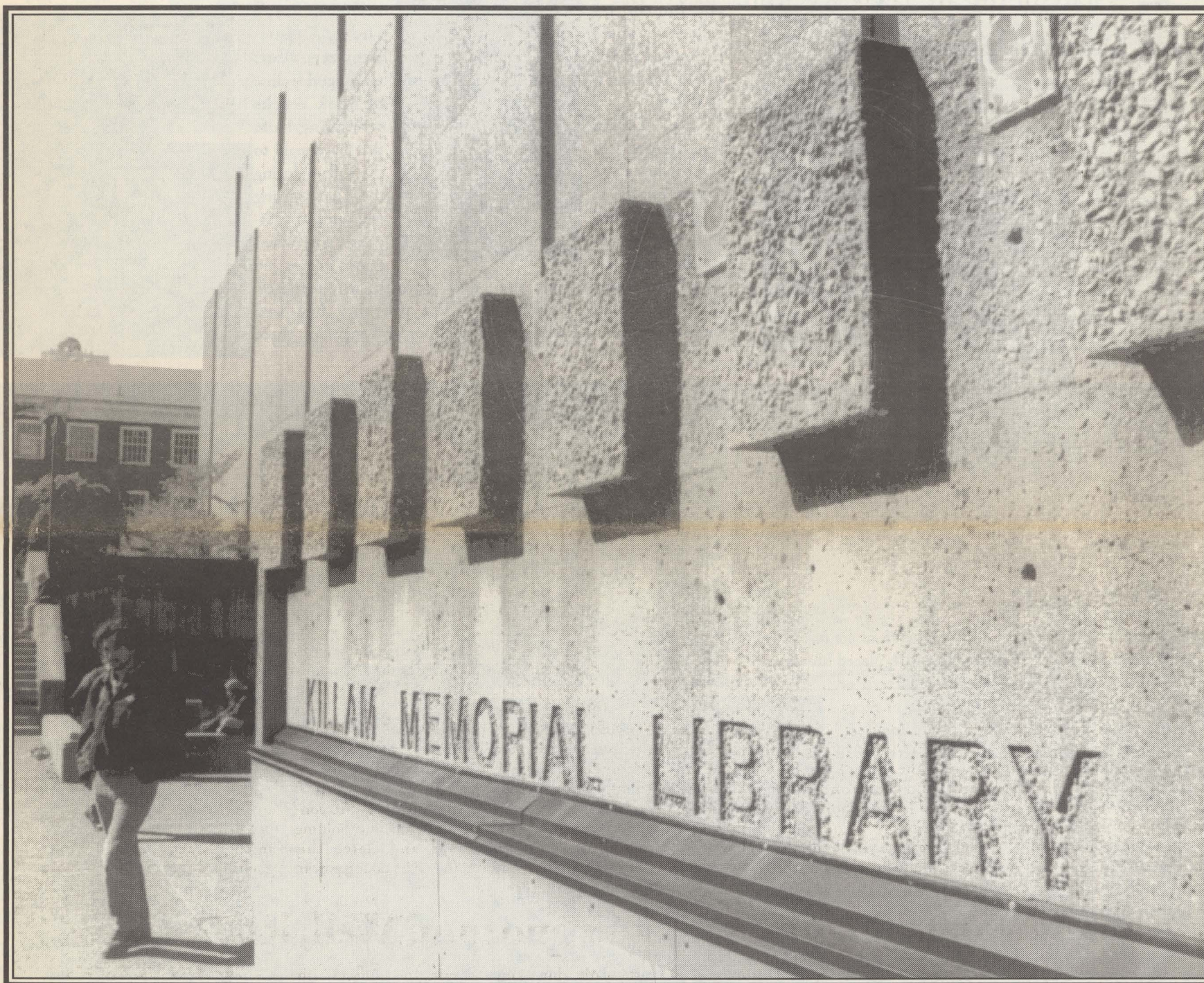


# KILLAM

## MEMORIAL LIBRARY



*"The library is more than a conglomeration of steel and concrete, furniture and books. The essential ingredient is the human factor, the people of the university community, the people of the social community."*

**Alan MacDonald**  
Library Professor, Dalhousie University

## HAPPY 25TH BIRTHDAY!



**W**e're having a party and you're invited! Dalhousie Univer-

sity is marking the 25th birthday of the KILLAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY with a series of special events and celebrations.

The birthday bash will kick off Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. when President Tom Traves cuts the birthday cake in the Killam courtyard. Events will continue for the 1995-96 academic year.

This supplement celebrates the contribution made by the University Libraries to Dalhousie and the wider community, and invites you to take part in the many activities that will mark this special occasion. (See Special Events section on the back page.)



# KILLAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## The year was 1971 and Dalhousie was opening its state-of-the-art Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library.

The campus was awash in famous names. World-renowned violinist Isaac Stern received an honorary degree at Convocation, as did Ernest Buckler, author of the classic Canadian novel *The Mountain and the Valley*. Artist Alex Colville was a symposium panelist, and Stern, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and the Hamburg Chamber Orchestra gave concerts.

The opening of "The Killam," as it became known, was a major event amid a campus building boom at Dalhousie. Within an 11-year period beginning in 1961, Howe Hall, the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, the Dalhousie Arts Centre, the Student Union Building, the Weldon Law Building, the Life Sciences Centre, the Killam Library, the Central Services Building and a new wing for Shirreff Hall were built, changing the campus into a bustling, modern university.

Referred to as "far-sighted," "magnificent," and "beautiful," the Killam offered a blend of concrete, quartzite flooring, expanses of glass, natural rosewood furnishings and an entrance courtyard.

The building also was "wired" for future communication needs and was considered one of the great academic libraries in North America. So much so that it won the 1971 design award from the Nova Scotia Association of

Architects, and Ellsworth Mason set aside a whole section for the Killam in his 1980 book *Mason On Library Buildings*.

The hoopla was understandable. The Killam cost \$7 million — \$5.6 million from a provincial government loan and the remainder from the Killam Trust — had the capacity for one million books and would become the major research library in the Atlantic Provinces.

Its opening also ended what one writer called

"the pattern of continuing neglect which placed library support far down on the scale of recognized priorities." That pattern had begun in 1818 with the founding of Dalhousie College. The library continued to suffer from a lack of adequate space and a haphazard acquisition policy until 1915 and the opening of the Macdonald Memorial Library.

However, by the mid-1950s the Macdonald had outstripped its capacity. A new wing was a temporary solution to increasing growth problems, but by the mid-1960s the Macdonald was once again

bursting at the seams. It was decided that the building would house the science collection, while the social sciences and humanities collections would be housed in the newly constructed Killam.

The Killam was designed to accommodate future needs. It originally housed all library services for the social sciences and humanities, the departments of Classics, German, English, the Romance

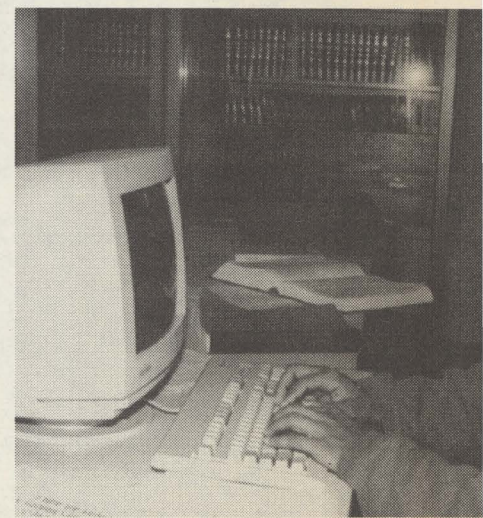
Languages and Education, and it included a newly-created Archives.

*There has always been a desperate need for books. In 1899, the total assets of three departments came to less than 100 books. Senators made their own libraries available for student use.*

Louise Mader, head of the Killam Library's Order Department, remembers an assembly line of book trucks stretching from the Macdonald to the Killam during the Thanksgiving weekend of October 1970 when staff began to

move in to the new premises. "We probably had two desks per staff member, three

phones and all kinds of space at the beginning," said Mader. And all that space meant that Louis Vagianos, director of communication services and



THE KILLAM LIBRARY WAS NAMED IN HONOR OF IZAAK WALTON AND DOROTHY KILLAM. IZAAK KILLAM WAS BORN IN MODEST CIRCUMSTANCES IN YARMOUTH, N.S., IN 1835. HE BEGAN A BUSINESS CAREER AT AGE 18 IN A BANK AND ROSE TO THE PRESIDENCY OF ROYAL SECURITIES CORPORATION, ONE OF CANADA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL INVESTMENT HOUSES. WHEN DOROTHY KILLAM DIED IN 1965, SHE LEFT A WILL THAT GENEROUSLY BEQUEATHED FUNDS IN TRUST TO MANY INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING DALHOUSIE.





the head of the library, spent a lot of time moving things and people around.

"I never knew where my desk would be in the morning," says Mader. "It was a very flexible building."

Librarian She-lagh Keene points out that the

building's plans were far-sight-ed and major changes have only occurred in the past 10

1980s, and that was 15 years after the Killam was built."

Computerization has intro-duced on-line cat-alogues, CD-ROM services and connected the Killam to the global information highway on the Internet.

Now, 25 years after its opening, the Killam is posed for another major change.

During this year of celebra-tion, the same

questions will be asked as the university tries to plan ahead in an ever-changing environ-ment.

Where does the Killam go from here? What will this great Atlantic Canadian resource look like in the next 25 years?

*The history of the Macdonald Memorial Library from its building in 1915 until 1970 followed what would seem to be a fairly standard pattern for university libraries. There was the constant struggle for funds and for staff, made more difficult by financial problems resulting from the depression of the 1930s. But by 1956, the Macdonald library book collection totalled 102,000 volumes.*

years with the explosion of communication technologies that could not have been fore-seen in 1971.

"They knew they couldn't see into the future, but they did try to plan ahead," says Keene. "The interior really didn't change very much until the

## FIGS & FACTS

During the academic year, the Killam Library is a constant beehive of activity, seven days a week. Here is a statistical look at just how things have grown in 25 years.

	1970	1995	% Increase
Circulation	25,292	273,065	980
Reference Questions	1,116	57,679	5,068
Interlibrary Loans			
Borrowed (In)	199	3,651	1,735
Loaned (Out)	160	5,498	3,336
Holdings			
Volumes	321,267	789,045	146
Microforms	135,374	321,273	137
Government Documents	67,138	382,485	470
Subscriptions*	5,916	5,125	-13
Collections Budget	\$ 360,000	\$1.84 Million	
Journal Expenditures	96,000	\$1.44 Million	

\* Talk about inflation! Average subscription cost in 1970 was \$16.22. It was \$280.97 in 1995.

Source: (Killam and Macdonald Libraries)





# SPECIAL CELEBRATION EVENTS

A series of events will be held over the academic year in celebration of the University Libraries and to mark the 25th birthday of the Killam Memorial Library.

Please check the Events Section of Dalhousie News during the year for updates, times and places.

## Kick-off Celebrations

President Tom Traves will officially kick off the 25th birthday celebrations at a party at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 17. There will be a birthday cake, other refreshments and draws for prizes.

## Remembering Thomas Raddall

A tribute to the late Nova Scotia author, whose manu-

scripts and personal library are housed in the Killam, will be held on Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

## Film Festival

A film festival, set for January, will show films that have libraries and librarians as a central theme. Three films, *Name of the Rose* (Jan. 14), *Desk Set* (Jan. 21) and *Fahrenheit 451* (Jan. 28) will be shown.

# KILLAM HOUSES RARE AND WONDROUS COLLECTIONS

The Killam Library houses a treasure trove of resources that are available to both the university and the people of Atlantic Canada. Not only does the library house the largest collection of books, journals and maps of any library in the Maritimes, it contains some very rare materials. Some of the special features include:

A copy of *Essays* (1680) and one of two existing copies of *Three Speeches* (1641) are particularly noteworthy.

## Cockerell Collection

Boasting 148 finely bound 18th century items, this collection was assembled by master book-binder Douglas Cockerell. It was donated by William Inglis Morse in 1936.

## The J.J. Stewart Collection

This collection contains all the major books and serials about Maritime topics published before 1907. It has the first textbook printed in Nova Scotia, unique literary journals, Micmac gospels and rare almanacs.

## Rare Books Collection

Pre-1821 volumes make up this collection. Popular periodicals of the 18th and 19th centuries, early scientific journals and literature of the Aesthetic Movement, classical texts, exploration accounts, and companion histories are this collection's strengths.

## The Kipling Collection

The largest collection in North America of the works of poet and storyteller Rudyard Kipling.

## Modern Australian Literature Collection

Contains most Australian authors of all periods; especially strong in Australian poetry.

## The English Canadian and Small Press Collection

Noted for its strong representation of English-Canadian creative writing, published by small presses after 1970.

## Nova Scotia Creative Writers

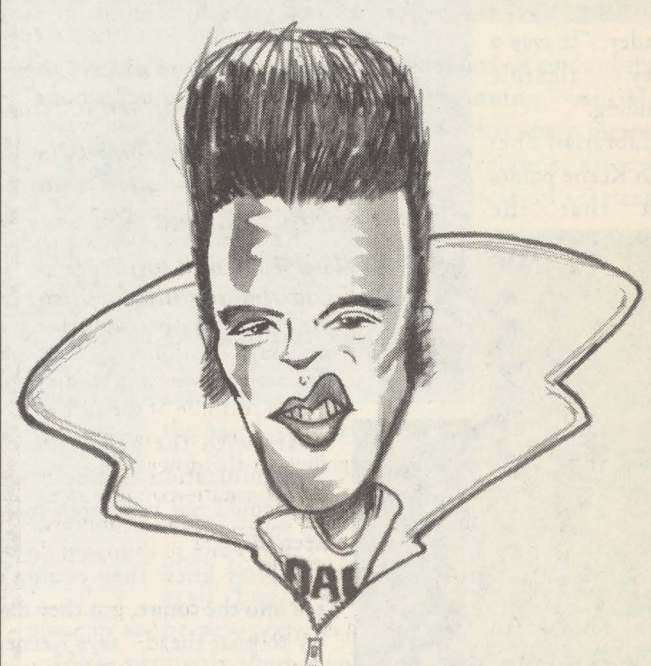
A collection of past and present Nova Scotian writers of poetry and prose, including Will Bird, Charles Bruce, Bliss Carmen, T.C. Haliburton, Thomas Raddall, Susan Kerslake, Andy Wainwright, and Joyce Barkhouse.

## Historical Maps and Prints

A collection of maps that trace North American exploration and settlement from 1690 — also Canadian engravings from 1820 to 1900, documenting 19th century Canadian society.

Special Collections invites the academic community and the general public to explore the rich resources. Telephone: 494-3615.

# Elvis lives!



WEIRD and wonderful comments and questions have appeared over the years on the Killam Library's comments/compliments/complaints board. For two decades, the board has been the place for students, faculty and staff to toss verbal rocks or bouquets and get a reply. Here's a small sampling of some of the comment cards that have appeared on the board since 1991:

... "I was loitering in the library when I saw Elvis sign out a book. How can a person that is technically dead sign out a book? If Elvis is not dead, how come you've been keeping this valuable secret from the world?"

... "The chairs in the reading room (periodicals) will induce powerful and unpleasant sensations in the lower back. Anybody over 5'8" who spends more than 20 minutes there will reduce the life expectancy of his vertebrae by a measurable amount. Could you PLEASE get some decent high-backed chairs ... please pretty please? Either that or have a chiropractor available."

... "What is your current longest overdue book? On Novanet, I saw one due in 1989." (Staff say that probably is the longest overdue book.)

... "Where is the index of left, Marxist people's power, alternative, non-standard type journals?"

... "As I finish up my third and final year here at Dal, I would like to compliment the staff and students who work at the Killam. In spite of the whining and complaining that seems to dominate the suggestion board, I have found the staff to be both pleasant and helpful during my tenure here. Keep up the good work!"

... "The other day I was sitting in the eating section of another university library. It made me long for such a place in our own Killam. No sooner, however, had I voiced this opinion than I saw a white mouse run by. I UNDERSTAND now — clearly — why we can't eat here. I am truly sorry for any mouse I may have kept alive in the Killam in the past."

... "This library is about the only one I know where people make photocopies with the copier cover open!!!!  
— signed Blinded Student."