



Sir Richard W. Scott

April 23

Who was Sir Richard W. Scott?

Sir Richard William Scott, born in Prescott, Ontario, in 1825, hailed from a family with roots in County Clare, Ireland. After being admitted to the bar in 1848, he established a legal practice in Bytown, later known as Ottawa. Scott's political journey began in 1851, when he joined the municipal council and eventually became the mayor of Bytown in 1852. Serving in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada from 1857 to 1863, he exhibited a commitment to public service.

With the advent of the Canadian Confederation, Scott represented Ottawa in the Ontario legislature from 1867 to 1871. Notably, he played a pivotal role in the passage of legislation safeguarding the rights of separate schools in Ontario, showcasing his dedication to inclusive policies.

In November 1873, Scott transitioned to federal politics, appointed as a minister without portfolio in Alexander Mackenzie's cabinet. Following this, he was appointed to the Senate in January 1874 and took on significant roles, including Secretary of State for Canada and Leader of the Government in the Senate.

A staunch supporter of temperance, Scott left an enduring legacy with the drafting of the "Scott Act." This legislation empowered Canadian counties or municipalities to prohibit the retail sale of liquor through a majority vote, reflecting his commitment to social causes.

Despite his government's defeat in the 1878 election, Scott continued to contribute to political life. He became Leader of the Opposition in the Senate until the return of the Liberals to government under Wilfrid Laurier. After his party regained power, Scott resumed his position as Secretary of State.

Sir Richard W. Scott retired from the cabinet in 1908 but remained in the Senate until his passing in 1913. His contributions to Canadian politics were recognized in 1909 when he was knighted by King Edward VII.

In his personal life, Scott was married to Mary Heron in 1853, a professional singer from Dublin, Ireland. They had two sons, William L. Scott and D'Arcy Scott, and four daughters. Mary Scott, an active participant in women's organizations, served on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women and as a Vice-President of the Local Council. The Scott family resided at 274 Daly Avenue in Ottawa, leaving a legacy that extended beyond the political sphere.

Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

Heavenly Father,

We come before you with hearts filled with gratitude for the life and service of Sir Richard W. Scott. In reflecting on his dedication to justice, public service and the well-being of others, we recognize the impact of his contributions to our community and nation.

We thank you for the wisdom and compassion that guided Sir Richard in his endeavours. May his commitment to inclusive policies and social causes inspire us to work for justice and equality in our own lives.

As we remember his advocacy for temperance and his efforts to create positive change, we seek your guidance in our own pursuits to make a difference in the world. Help us to be instruments of peace, understanding and positive transformation, just as Sir Richard W. Scott exemplified in his lifetime.

Lord, we also lift up Sir Richard's family in our prayers. May they be comforted by the knowledge that his legacy continues to influence and inspire generations. Bless them with strength and peace.

In our reflections on Sir Richard W. Scott's life, may we be motivated to live with purpose, integrity, and a commitment to the well-being of others. May his memory serve as a reminder of the positive impact that individuals can have when guided by principles of justice and compassion.

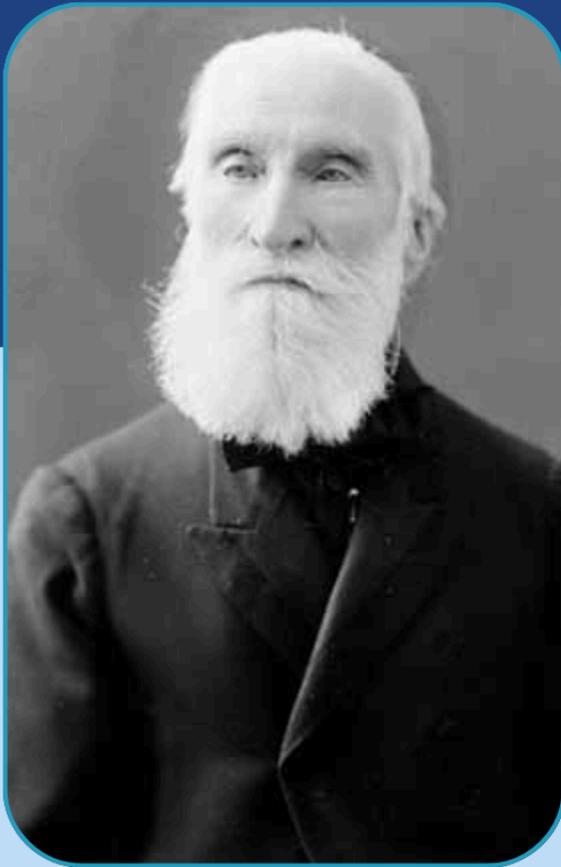
We offer this prayer in gratitude for the life of Sir Richard W. Scott and ask for your continued blessings and guidance on our own journeys.

Amen.





York Catholic District School Board



CELEBRATION DAY:

April 23

SCHOOL LOCATION:

Markham, ON

*Thank you Sir Richard
Scott for your belief in
the importance of
Catholic education and
the role of faith in
community building.*

**Sir Richard
W. Scott**

