

# Career criminal claims his life of crime began with the Chatham, Ontario CAS

## Former CAS Crown Ward vows to go straight after a lifetime of criminal activity

By Mike March - Monday, July 1, 2008.

Placing children into the care of the Children's Aid Society is one way of ensuring that those in the legal and law enforcement industries will be ensured an ongoing supply of criminals to keep their systems running at full tilt.

A recent court case in London, Ontario involving former CAS Crown Ward, Mervyn Breaton, supports what a recent study out of British Columbia has shown – that kids placed in foster care are more likely to be involved in a life of crime than getting a proper education.

The 87 year-old Breaton appeared before Justice Ross Webster in London, Ontario on charges relating to drugs and breach of probation.

Breaton said his history of being involved in crime began after he was placed into the care of Children's Aid Society in Chatham as a child.

Breaton said that since the time he was placed in the care of the CAS that crime and jails is all that he has ever known.

"They threw me into Children's Aid and from then on it was one jail to another," he said.

In spite of Breaton's involvement with CAS years ago, evidence would seem to indicate that many of the influences at CAS facilities which got him into a life of crime in the first place are still present and that not much at the CAS has improved over the years.

Even today, children living in group homes and foster homes in Ontario are being exposed to various forms of abuse and neglect with Ontario's various CAS agencies fighting to keep Ontario's Ombudsman, Andre Marin from having oversight over their agencies.

In the past year alone, Court Watch has interviewed kids in care who have reported a wide range of activities inside CAS facilities including beatings, assaults, drug use, sexual abuse and neglect while in the care of Ontario's CAS child protection system.

Many of these children report that CAS workers and police turn a blind eye to abuses they suffer while in care.

Some girls become pregnant while in care of CAS as a result of the lax care and supervision found in many CAS facilities.

Some CAS workers have been caught trying to cover-up abuse of children in their care in order to cover up incompetence by their own workers.

Overall, Breaton has spent more of his life inside a jail than outside and at the peak of his career he spend 19 years of his life at the world famous Alcatraz prison located in San Francisco Bay.

While in Alcatraz, he looked after the infamous "Bird Man of Alcatraz" who was known in real life as Robert Stroud.

His record includes a string of car thefts, weapons and drug convictions and vehicular manslaughter.

He was an expert at escaping custody and on one of his escapades managed to escape from Collins Bay penitentiary in Kingston, Ontario in a daring over-the-wall flight to freedom.

"The next day I was in Toronto robbing banks," he said.

Justice Webster gave the 87 year-old former CAS ward a hefty \$5,000 fine.

The fine is money which will not likely be put to good use as it will be given back to the Province of Ontario where from there some of it will be used to fund CAS agencies in their work to place yet more kids into CAS care.

After pleading guilty in court, Mervyn says, he really, really means it this time.

"I'm getting too old for this stuff," he said.

One can only imagine what his life would be like today if he had had not been thrown into the hands of the CAS where he was likely given his first taste of crime.

All this destruction of children by the CAS is funded by the taxpayers of the Province of Ontario of course.

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