

Crozier, Jim

Peel Bicy. Bk. July 16-86

# Crusader Crozier keeps trying to 'save the world'

By MICHAEL LIGHTSTONE  
Staff Reporter

July 16 86 MW

One would think after 20 years in the social services field, Jim Crozier might have become less idealistic and more jaded. But he has not — he still wants to “save the world.”

“We have to. It’s the only world we’ve got,” said Crozier, the Region of Peel’s social services commissioner.

He has seen the good, the bad, and the ugly in Mississauga and Peel society after 12 years as commissioner, and has not abandoned his personal crusade to improve the quality of life for local residents.

Although he is marking his 20th anniversary in social services, there is still work to be done.

“I guess what I’m trying to do is laying a foundation for the future of social services in Peel beyond my retirement,” said Crozier, 57.

His goals for the future range from universal day care, to care for senior citizens and the disabled, and a revamped welfare system.

“I think people should have a right to work instead of a right to welfare,” he stated.

Along the way, since he first came to the Region when it was established in 1974, there have been career peaks and valleys. He said developing a social services strategy for Peel was satisfying, as was the formation of the Peel Non-Profit Housing Corporation.

But inadequate funds and a frustrating bureaucracy

can get the best of many a regional government director.

“You often become more frustrated with the process than satisfied with the results. But it’s a necessary evil,” Crozier said.

A Mississauga resident, Crozier began his social services career in 1966, when he was employed as a family benefits worker for the province. A gentle, good-natured man who spent 12 years in the Canadian Armed Forces, has a Bachelor of Religious Education degree from a Toronto seminary, and also worked for the Metropolitan Toronto Police (in a civilian capacity), he stands by his convictions.

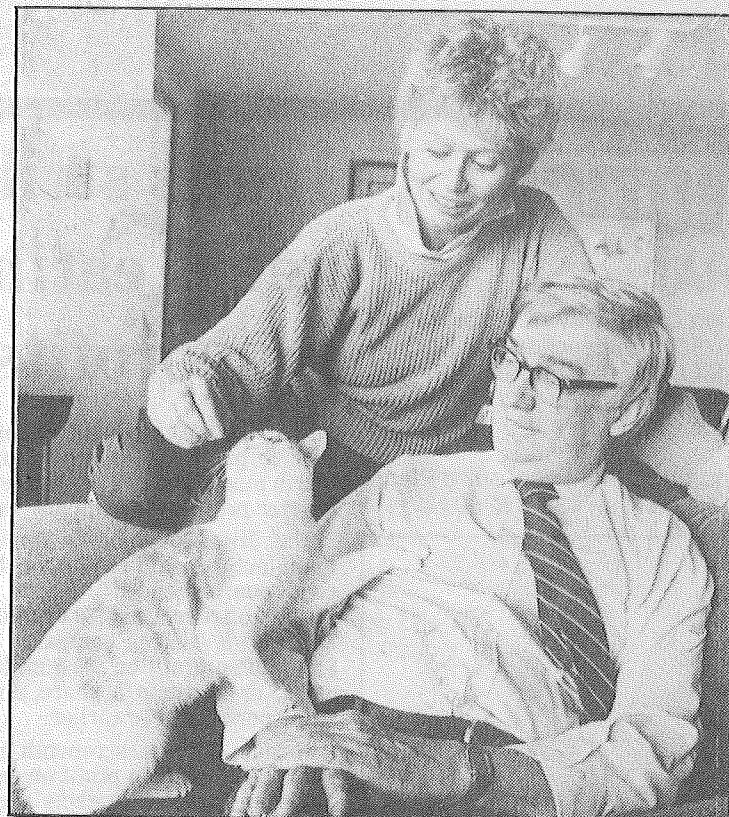
He said he operates on the belief of three personal policies derived from the Bible: do not judge anybody, act on the basis of conscience, and be considerate of others.

“I really feel that there’s nothing that we can’t do that can’t be negotiated,” he said. “People deserve your consideration.”

Married for the third time, the father of two and grandfather of three lives with his wife, Patricia, in an apartment on Sherobee Rd. To relax, Crozier said he enjoys chess, tennis, golf, and the occasional restaurant.

As Crozier nears retirement, he is beginning to reflect on a long, rewarding career. What he will remember most, he said, are the colleagues who have helped to make the job easier.

“I think I’ve been really fortunate with the quality of the staff. I’ve learned more from my staff than perhaps I’ve given them,” he said.



Staff photo by Tim Chevrier

At home, Jim Crozier and wife, Patricia, turn their attention to Whispers, the family cat. But at the office, Crozier, the Region of Peel's commissioner of social services, attends to the needs of thousands in Mississauga and Peel. Crozier is celebrating his 20th year in social services.