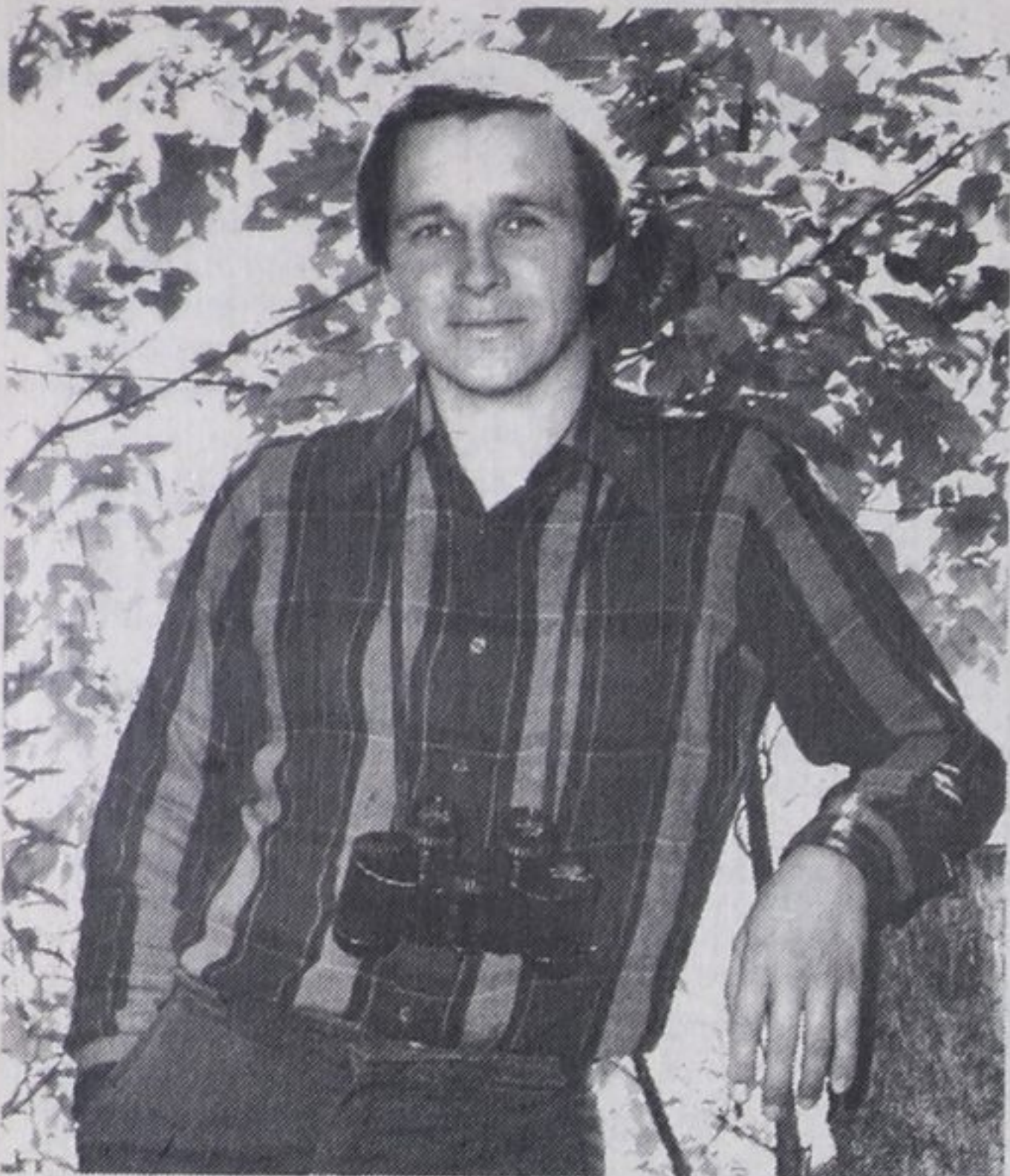


That's My Line



Bruce Hood wildlife interpreter

When Bruce Hood says he draws on his imagination in the course of his duties as a wildlife interpreter at the Kortright Centre for Conservation, he isn't kidding. An accomplished cartoonist (and equally accomplished artist), the personable native of Hamilton regularly lends his sketching skills and gentle humour to the production of illustrations for posters, displays, pamphlets and other printed materials used in the Centre's activities.

The cartooning is strictly a side-bar effort for the enthusiastic wildlife biology major from the University of Guelph. Not yet 30 years of age, Bruce Hood has been closely associated with nature in Ontario for most of his life. At a time when most kids were expressing a desire to become policemen, firemen or astronauts, six-year-old Bruce knew he wanted to be working out-of-doors among the living things of forest and stream.

In the early 1960's Douglas Hood, then of Burlington, would frequently take his family on camping trips, often to provincial parks. His young son Bruce learned to love the outdoors. He had a never-ending stream of questions, not only for his father, but for park attendants and naturalists as well, about the birds, animals and insects he discovered in the wilderness.

Born in Hamilton, in 1954, Bruce and his

parents, his sister, Barbara and a brother, David, moved to Burlington, Ontario, in 1958. David is also involved in outdoors work, as a designer employed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources at the Provincial Park of Wasaga Beach. Barbara works summers at Cyprus Lake Provincial Park near Tobermory, Ontario.

Following graduation from secondary school in Burlington, Hood attended McMaster University in Hamilton for a year and then transferred to the University of Guelph to pursue his interest in nature and attain his Bachelor of Science in Biology.

It was his maternal grandfather, Roy Herman of Hamilton, who first aroused Bruce Hood's interest in art-work and cartooning. A skilled and innovative cabinetmaker, who produced many of his own tools, Grandpa Herman spent many hours with his grandson during the latter's early years. Sometimes, to amuse the boy, he would draw a random line on a piece of paper and then encourage Bruce to draw something from it.

The youngster found he enjoyed the exercise and went on to excel in art throughout his school years, winning the Grade 13 art award at M.M. Robinson High School in Burlington. From Grade 11 on, and through his second year of university, Bruce taught art for the Burlington Recreation Department in the summer and on weekends throughout

the winters. He also took an art course each semester at university, "just to keep in practice".

Hood's obvious dedication to conservation, his creative skills and ready wit, coupled with his newly-acquired B.Sc. degree, easily earned him his first job with the Department of Natural Resources at Bass Lake Provincial Park, near Orillia, where he was put in charge of the interpretive program. Later, he moved into the district office and then to Wasaga Beach Park where he held the position of media designer, which included the production of publications, exhibits and audio-visual materials.

In the fall of 1977, Hood joined The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Sketching skills pay off for wildlife interpreter

Conservation Authority. Such has been the caliber of his work that he is still on the Kortright staff.

A major facet of Hood's work is the preservation and improvement of wildlife habitat. Assiduously gathering information on nature subjects, such as deer management, he prepares material for staff talks, brochures, slide shows and develops story lines for wildlife indoor and outdoor exhibits.

One of the most valuable contributions to area conservation, Hood feels, has been the development of a marsh at Kortright, sponsored by Ducks Unlimited. Wetlands have become critical to the conservation of wildlife and forests and have been among the hardest hit of natural habitats. Bruce

declares.

Among the other successful programs in which he has been involved have been Kortright's eventide Owl Prowls, birdhouse-building demonstrations, "We're for the Birds", Radio Telemetry and Coyote Howl outings.

At night, Hood gives attention to his artwork, turning, as the spirit moves him, from fine art to cartooning. He continues to look upon painting as an accessory to his work as a naturalist. The coupling of his illustrative talents with his knowledge of biology provides extra impact to his major work, by adding the fun and reedom of expression cartooning permits.

With the dedication of a true conservationist, Hood avers, "wildlife

conservation education, offer society, so art to me, is the most positive thing I have to must remain a secondary interest."

Teach fewer students

A lesser number of students is attending schools administered by the Simcoe County Board of Education this school year than in the last school year.

The number of teachers has not changed. A new pupil-teacher ratio came into effect this month: classes are smaller.

Also the elementary school teachers' contract calls for a librarian in each school, says trustee Joan Jensen.

Teachers are being hired, as well, in preparation for the coming into force in September of 1985 of Bill 82, the special education legislation.

We're glad you asked!



Jim Lynn
Funeral Director

"HOW DO I GIVE COMFORT TO THE TERMINALLY ILL?"

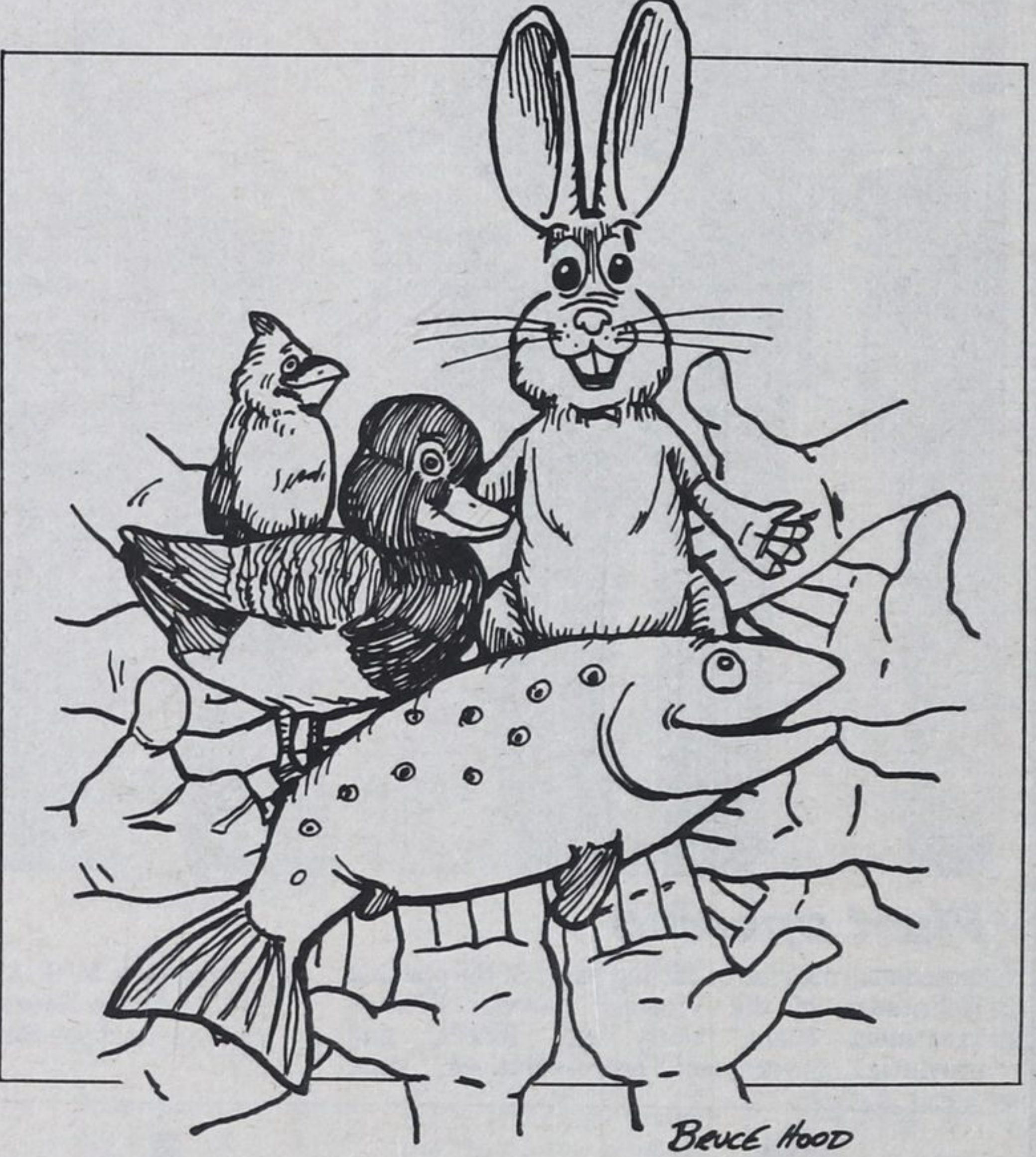
It is usually best to maintain the same closeness you have shared in the past. Your contacts with the person should be of the same type as they were in the past -- a phone call, short visit over coffee, a personal note -- whichever was your manner of contact before you heard of the illness.

If making a personal call seems too difficult, perhaps a short note indicating "Word has come to me that you are ill. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers."

Silence can often be interpreted to mean indifference to one who is ill. A simple note of concern and love makes an opening for a personal call at a time convenient to the sick person. That personal visit will surely prove a comfort to both parties!

And finally, that personal visit should be made as ordinarily as possible. Don't change your personality or behaviour -- rather "Be yourself." Bring news or items of interest into the conversation, all in a way to show you care.

JL James H. Lynn
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ostensibly for a two year, 'on loan' period - to develop a fish and wildlife program for the newly-created Kortright Centre for Conservation.

Officially on staff at Kortright as a biologist, his main concern was to gather information that could be developed into wildlife management programs reflecting the aims of the Ministry of Natural Resources and The Metropolitan Toronto and Region

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