

In one building on the studio

grounds, Ross Carter, a 24-year employee, oversees the molten aluminum. With a long-handled ladle, he scoops the silvery liquid out, swings forward and pours the liquid into a mould. He is so adept, he has four moulds going at a time. He adeptly moves from poring, the cracking open a mould to remove the first casting, resets others and returns to the heat.

The flat, grey metal preliminary work is then handed to someone else to grind off extra bits. From there, each piece moves for its first polishing. Two men carefully begin to work to bring the lustre of the metal to the surface.

In another section of the studio operation, the metalware goes into large

vibrating tubs filled with stones. The action of the water, vibration and stones smooths edges and works the aluminum's surface to a higher sheen. But the sculpture is still not finished.

"Each piece will be hand-polished four times before it is complete," Mrs. DePaepe notes.

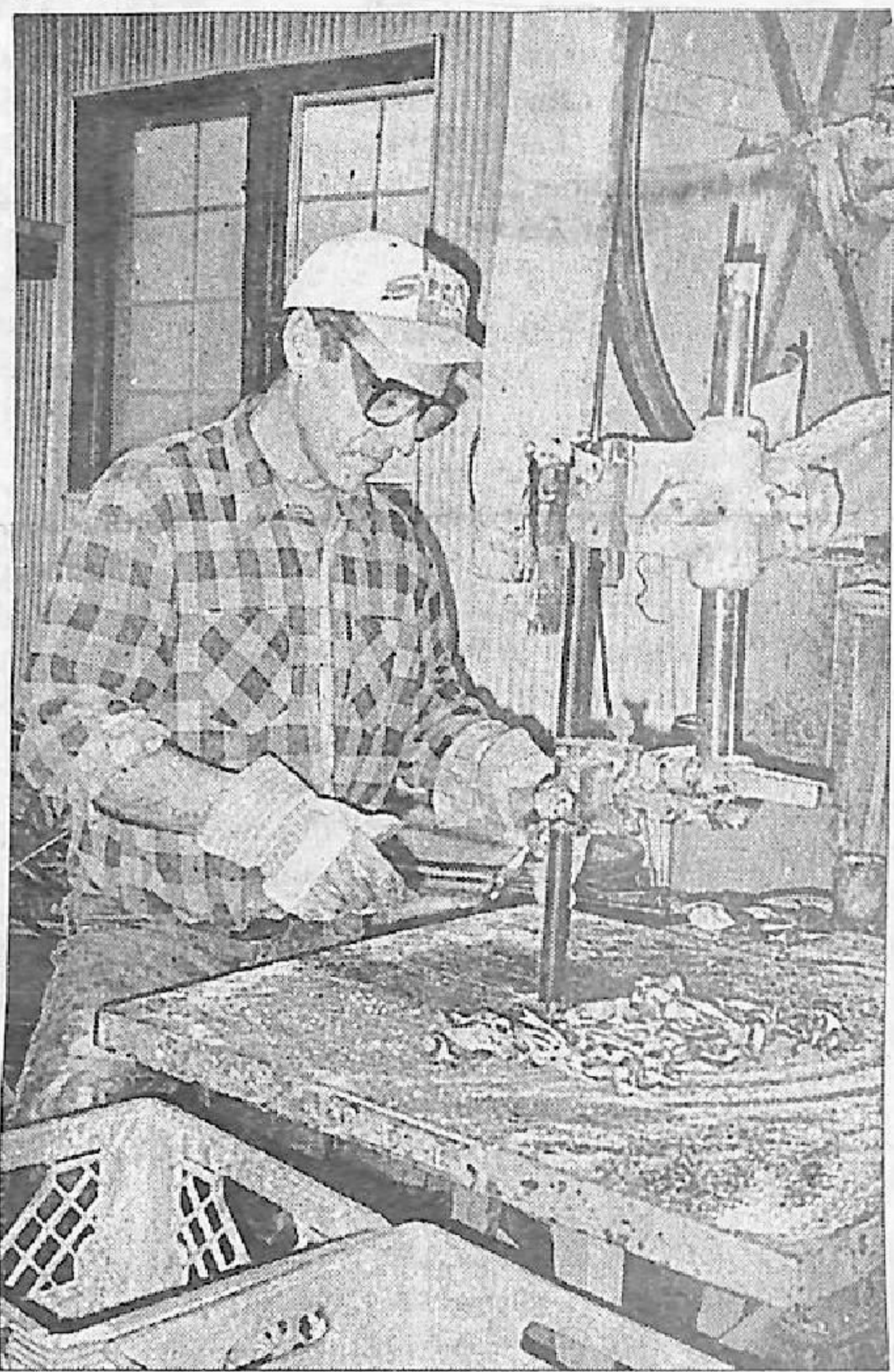
In the final polishing room, there's evidence of new designs for 1999.

1999 is the Year of the Rabbit, so there are new designs for the occasion. With the introduction of 24k gold plating on many of the designs, Gord has been experimenting with adding gold touches to aluminum sculptures. There are also the marble and soapstone carvings. Mr. Hoselton is also commissioned to design and produce one-of-a-kind and/or exclusive pieces for special occasion, businesses and retailers.

"Actually, there are many, many pieces now, about 2,038," explains Mrs. DePaepe. "Each piece is numbered and named and given a catalogue number. There are 35 miniatures which are now also produced in 24k gold, so you could say there are 70 miniatures."

Five years ago, the Hoselton's compiled a catalogue of Gord's designs. While not every design is always in production, it can be ordered and produced.

"Gord's daughter Jan is in charge of marketing and daughter Carol oversees the production, so it is truly a family business," Judith explains. "I get to help out with the marketing, sometimes going to the trade shows with Jan. We have people and cus-



Dwayne Tessier trims the aluminium cast designs at the Hoselton Studio. Literally thousands of people tour the studio annually.

"This product is so easy to sell," enthuses Mrs. DePaepe. "They retail at \$10 up to \$750 usually."

The proof is in the steady growth of the business - and the need for increased studio space.

"It seems every two years the business has to spread its wings and move to more space again. Now, 48 people are employed. They are often working here six days a week, from 6:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. since August."

Hoselton Studio Ltd. has a new Website on the Internet, designed by Patti May of Colborne. The site is a the Hoselton's solution for those who can't drop by Colborne for a visit and tour of the



Many of the Hoselton sculptures are now available in 24k gold finishes.



1999 is the Year of the Rabbit. Hoselton Studio's Judith Depaepe holds a new Gord Hoselton design (number 2010) to usher in the new year.

facility. Many days, several bus loads are visiting, in addition to the passersby and enthusiasts who come looking for the studio.

The welcoming sign at the front gate is an ingrained Hoselton attitude: accessibility, service and genuine pleasure in customer's appreciation of their work.