

1997 Work of Forester's Falls silversmith selected for juried Toronto gift show

By Marie Zettler
Editor

A Forester's Falls silversmith has been accepted to participate in a juried section of the year's Toronto Gift Show.

Jennifer Reid-Vallance, who trained in her craft in Britain, will be one of 126 exhibitors in the Ontario Creative Arts Show (OCAS), which is a section of the Toronto Gift Show.

Home-based businesses, employing five or fewer people, are eligible to vie for acceptance in the OCAS, which is funded by corporate sponsors including the Bank of Montreal, Royal Bank, IBM, the Business Development Bank, Coopers and Lybrand, the Toronto Business Development Centre, and the Centre for Entrepreneurship of Centennial College.

"Because this is a sponsored position, it will be a chance for me to see, at a fraction of the usual cost, whether wholesaling is for me," said Ms. Reid-Vallance. "It will be a great opportunity to make contacts. If it goes well, I could pay my way another year in the other part of the show."

There was a non-refundable \$50 fee to apply for a spot in the show.

She heard about the show from a friend for whom she had made custom wedding and engagement rings. He drew her attention to an ad in a magazine inviting applications for the show, called "Uniquely Ontario".

"I called an 800 number, and by the time I got the forms, I had only three days to get my entry ready," she said. "I was thinking I'd be critiqued this year for the three pieces I sent, and then would be better able to prepare to enter next year."

To her surprise, she was selected on her first try for this year's show, which begins this Sunday, February 22, and runs until February 25.

Only people with a trade pass are eligible to visit the show.

"I guess they don't want the pub-

lic to make it impossible for the buyers," said the artist. "I won't be making any sales — just taking orders."

There are over 1,000 exhibitors at the gift show. Last year there were 109 in the creative arts section, which in itself generated \$770,650 in sales for the home-based businesses represented there.

Ms. Reid-Vallance said that the show has a support team which has been "incredibly helpful" to make sure booths look really professional.

"They've given me all kinds of ideas on presentation," she said. She works out of her Forester's

Falls home under the name *Silverstone Sterling Silver and Jewellery*. Her work has a distinct Celtic flavour and, in her words, "incorporates the soul and symbolism of ancient times into unique pieces of sterling silver."

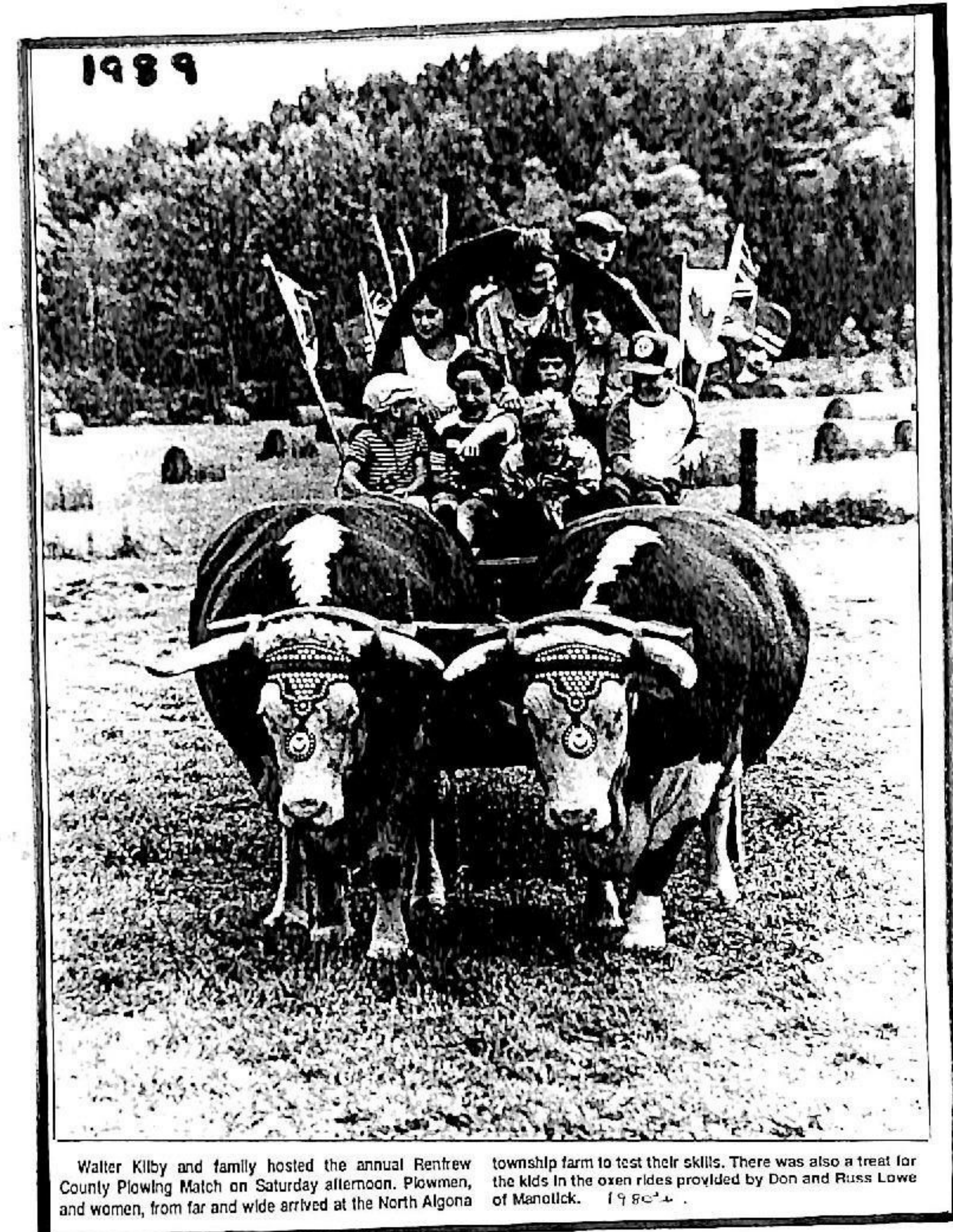
"Celtic interlacement, ancient symbols or charms, and medieval influences blend with more contemporary pieces to present a collection with meaning," she said. "People are always interested in the meaning of the design, many of which I've gotten from old dictionaries."

The show takes place at the National Trade Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto.



Jennifer Reid-Vallance of *Silverstone Sterling Silver and Jewellery* in Forester's Falls displays some of the Celtic-influenced creations she will be displaying in the juried *Uniquely Ontario* section of the Toronto Gift Show.

Source: The Cobden Sun
Curator: Ruby Bulmer



Walter Kilby and family hosted the annual Renfrew County Plowing Match on Saturday afternoon. Plowmen, and women, from far and wide arrived at the North Algonia township farm to test their skills. There was also a treat for the kids in the oxen rides provided by Don and Russ Lowe of Manotick. 1989



Keith Bennett with his Belgians

Jan. 30, 1998
Carnival sleighride in Forester's Falls

Photo by Valerie McLaughlin