

Cochrane-South vet service now located at Monteith

by Pam Sutheran

After almost a week of practicing out of his new location in Monteith, Cochrane South's veterinarian, Dr. Danny Saint, is still not quite settled in but is enjoying the space and convenience of a well-equipped animal care centre.

Saint, who recently moved from Matheson to a home at Nellie Lake, moved his medical practice from the basement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food office in Matheson where he has been located for 14 months, to Monteith last week. He opened for business there Thursday.

The Cochrane-South Veterinarian Service clinic, in a newly renovated building located near the Monteith Correctional Centre, is equipped with x-ray and darkroom equipment, surgery facilities, examination room, grooming centre, kennels and an office. Saint says that the building is better equipped in general and has a better facility for surgery than the Matheson office. He is renting from the Ministry of Government Services but owns his own equipment, including the \$10,000 x-ray machine.

The clinic is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 12 a.m. and from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 to 12 a.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays Dr. Saint devotes to large animals.

His receptionist, Inga Obendiek-Maurice of Monteith hopes to become a veterinarian and plans to enter the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph. Until then the native of Germany is gaining experience at the clinic and also helps Saint with the large animals.

Appointments can be made by calling 232-6288.

The Monteith clinic is one of 18 designated areas for subsidy from the vet services branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Presently veterinarians who set up practice in a designated area receive an annual lump sum grant for the treatment of livestock. But that could all change if the government follows recommendations contained in a report on the veterinary assistance program in northern Ontario.

The primary recommendation contained in the report, prepared by Dr. James White of Info Results Ltd., is that the subsidy should be based on the number of calls made instead of the present system.

Dr. Saint says that the report and its primary recommendation "is a disaster" as far as he is concerned and that his subsidy would be cut to a third of what it is now.

Dr. White suggests abolishing the present \$12,000 yearly grant and paying vets a fee per

kilometre for driving time as well as car expenses on their calls for food-producing animals.

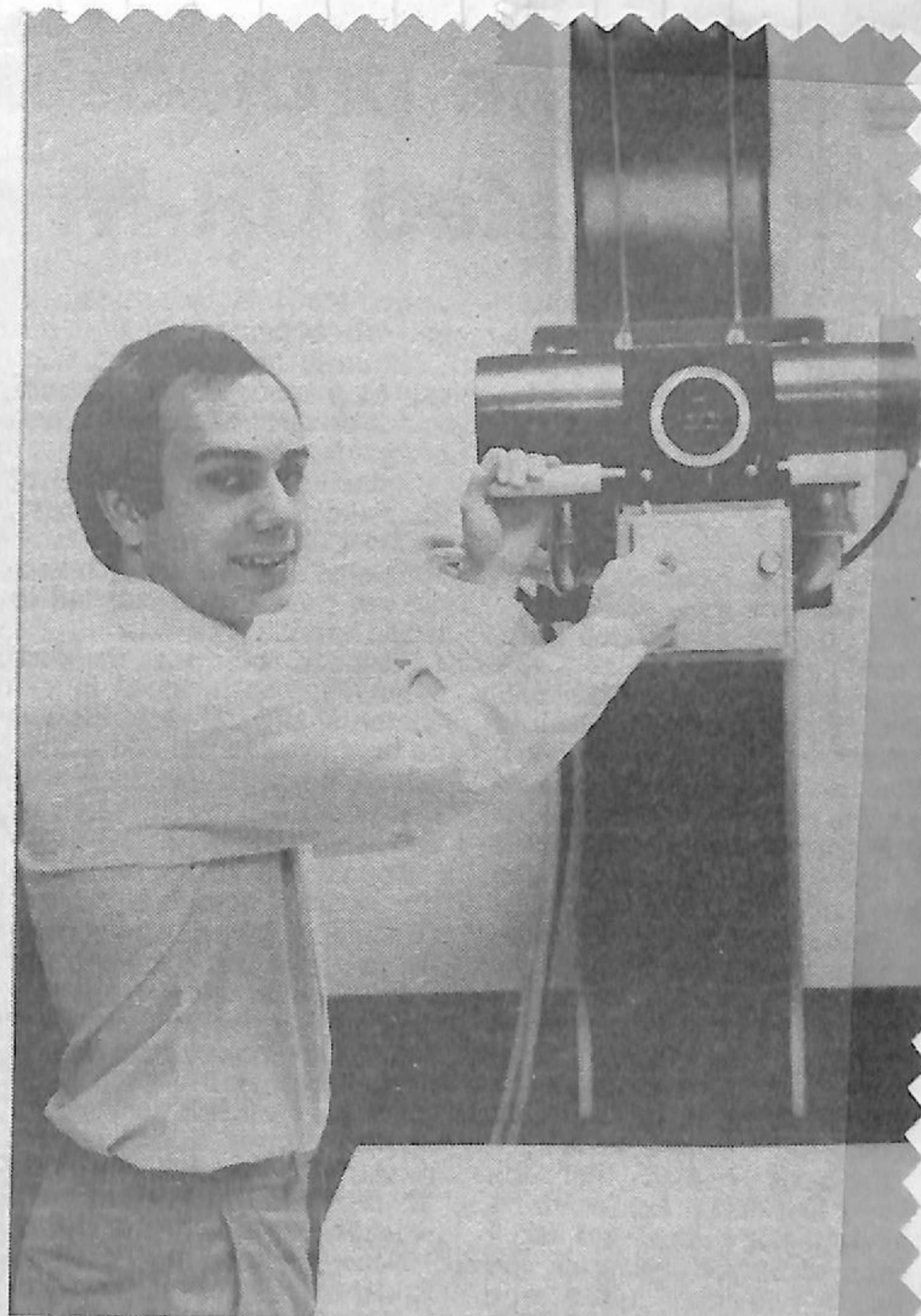
Originally, the veterinary assistance program was established to ensure that areas of the province where commercial livestock operations are few and far between would have access to the same level of veterinary services as the rest of Ontario.

The report also recommends extending this subsidy to any veterinarian in these areas who would: provide full-time service to all large animal producers; abide by maximum rates established by the Ministry to provide uniform charges for all large animal work; maintain an office within five kilometres of the designated area; have adequate large animal equipment and maintain a reasonable supply of drugs.

"This would give veterinarians who wish to practice in these areas a better opportunity to do so," Timbrell said.

The report has been circulated for comments from the veterinary profession and the users of these services. Ministry staff will hold public meetings in the fall to discuss these recommendations.

Last year, the 27 veterinarians taking part in the program in the existing 18 designated areas made almost 24,000 calls.



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Dr. Danny Saint, DVM, moved into his newly renovated Cochrane-South Veterinary Services clinic in Monteith recently and is quite pleased with his new location. He is shown here with his \$10,000 x-ray machine.