

# Nuclear medicine moves into present at hospital

By MILLIE STEWART  
Liberal Reporter

In this age of modern technology, nuclear medicine is for the present and definitely for the future, as you will see if you are treated in this new department at York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill.

The sound of the word 'nuclear' can summon visions of devastation and other such unpleasanties to the lay person, but nuclear medicine is absolutely safe.

It is a radiology procedure that uses gamma x-rays in some ways, but it's better.

The patient is injected with a saline solution that contains a radioactive substance, usually Technetium, and this is combined with different chemical compounds to enable it to localize in different organs of the body. What happens once this radioactive substance reaches its goal is simply this. If a disease is present in an organ, it will cause the distribution of the radioactivity to be altered and hence a diagnosis can be made.

### BORROWED HELP

At present, York Central Hospital does not have a full time Nuclear Medicine Technologist on the staff, but Brenda Glendenning of York County Hospital in Newmarket is performing the duties on a part-time basis.

Eight or nine patients a

day are presently receiving treatment in the Nuclear Medicine Department at YCH and they find it painless and without after effects.

The amount of radiation entering the body is much less than what a person would receive from a normal x-ray and the radiation totally dissipates within 24 hours.

There are many advantages to having a Nuclear Medicine department in a hospital.

Very often information which is not available by other means can be determined by these procedures and some examples of this are:

— **Brain Scan** ... nuclear medicine avoids unpleasant and somewhat risky examinations, and it enables patients to be treated locally rather than being referred elsewhere to special centres.

— **Bone Scan** ... nuclear medicine is a more sensitive test than x-rays and is used to detect a spread of cancer to bone tissue. A popular use of this scan is for cancer of the breast or prostate.

— **Liver Scan** ... once again nuclear medicine surpasses other tests in determining the presence of cancer in this organ.

— **Lung Scan** ... the diagnosis of pulmonary embolism has



Brenda Glendenning, a nuclear medicine technologist on loan to York Central Hospital from York County Hospital in Newmarket, operates the console with the

cameras used to record images on the gamma camera used in the Nuclear Medicine Department at York Central Hospital. (Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg).

always required the use of large amounts of radiation and in many cases can be harmful to a seriously ill patient. Now, with the nuclear medicine treatment it is painless and the amounts of radiation are minimal.

### Old station may locate at new park

The only place left, apparently, to move Richmond Hill's old station house, is the proposed major park site at 18th Avenue and Leslie Street.

Richmond Hill's Parks and Recreation Department is studying the idea, after other groups and organizations have tried, and failed, to locate the structure in various areas.

There is some urgency to site the building, without seriously affecting the leasing of the land for corn crops.

Estimated cost of moving the structure has been set at \$5,000.

This Thursday, the Parks and Recreation Committee is expected to recommend the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee carry out preliminary studies and prepare a bylaw designating the station "historical".

That would qualify it for various available grants.

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normalities of thyroid function and nodules in the thyroid.

### NEW EQUIPMENT

The nuclear medicine department is very special. It consists of a gamma camera, which detects the gamma rays being emitted from the patient, and complex camera equipment which

records the images on medical recording film or polaroid film, depending on how quickly the results are required.

Just to start a nuclear medicine department cost \$118,000 and the funds came from York Central Hospital Foundation, which is the fund raising arm of the hospital.

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