

X-ray department does a lot more

(This is another in a continuing series of articles on the McCausland Hospital in Terrace Bay).

By Ken Lusk and Sylvia McCullough

You may be like many people who, when thinking of x-rays, think only of broken bones.

This type of x-ray is only a portion of the workload of the radiology department of McCausland Hospital, and Chief X-Ray Technologist, Sylvia McCullough.

The department handles in-patients and emergency cases, but out-patients constitute the majority of the workload, said McCullough.

The examinations the department performs include all common over-table radiography such as skulls, spines, hips, chests, abdomens, shoulders and extremities.

This work aids the doctor in the diagnosis of disease and the detection of injury and foreign bodies.

Intravenous Pyelograms (IVP's) are also performed and this is an exam using a dye which is injected intravenously to outline the kidneys, ureters and bladder.

Oral cholecystograms (gall bladder x-rays) are done to reveal stones or disease of the gall bladder.

Gastric studies (exams of the esophagus, stomach and small bowel) are also done routinely as well as barium enemas.

These are large bowel exams using barium and the fluoroscope.

The fluoroscope is part of the main x-ray device which is like a motion picture camera- instead of a still x-ray, the technologist will see a moving one.

These barium studies are usually performed by a radiologist (a doctor specializing in x-ray diagnosis) but training and permission have been granted the department so it can be done in Terrace Bay if necessary.

This will save the patient a trip to

Thunder Bay, noted McCullough.

The department also arranges bookings in Thunder Bay for any additional special procedures, such as nuclear scans, computed tomography scans, angiograms, mammograms and echo-cardiograms.

Three technologists

McCullough said that most x-ray departments would not perform all those tasks, but in a small town, there cannot be separate departments for all those specialties.

McCullough has been working in Terrace Bay since August of 1976 and at that time, she was the only x-ray technologist.

For many years, she used to be on call if she wasn't at the hospital. Only recently has she been able to leave her job at the office.

In September of 1979, Gwen Black

was hired and in February of this year, Harry Roos was hired.

McCullough now works strictly five days a week and Black and Roos work with her during the day and are on call after hours.

Visited Terrace Bay

McCullough graduated from Kingston General Hospital in 1969 and worked there for a year before going on to Napanee for two and a half years.

She said that during a visit to Terrace Bay, her and her husband, a local self-employed contractor, were really pleased with the area.

There wasn't too much going on where they lived, she said, so they came to Terrace Bay.

Many ultrasounds

McCullough said the radiology

department performs many ultrasounds, which include abdominal, pelvic and obstetric exams.

The ultrasound works like radar in that it sends waves into the body. The waves bounce back after hitting the soft tissue organs and create a 'picture' on the screen.

The device can take hard pictures- actual photographs, said McCullough.

These began in April, 1983, and McCullough noted that a popular misconception is that ultrasound is used primarily for pregnant women.

A large portion of the ultrasounds are for that, but nearly half of the exams are abdominal and pelvic.

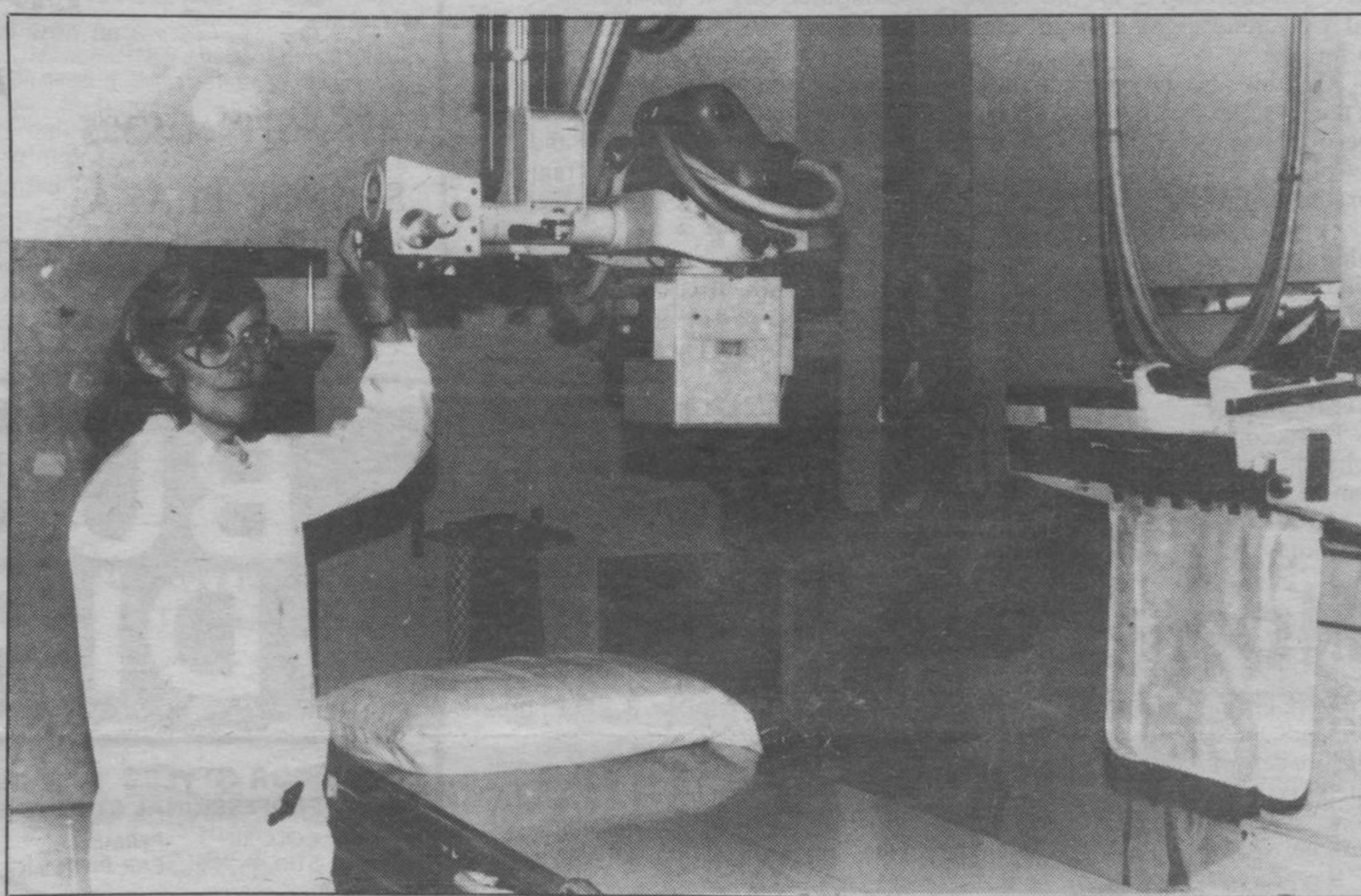
The department examines areas such as the liver, gall bladder, pancreas, kidneys, spleen, and the non-pregnant uterus and ovaries to detect disease, stones, cysts, tumours and aneurysms.

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X-ray specialist

Above is X-ray Technologist Sylvia McCullough of the McCausland Hospital in Terrace Bay. She is standing beside something most of us have

lain on before- the x-ray machine. The radiology department does a lot more than just bones and chests said McCullough.

Dean Main new man

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As soon as he gets a house, his wife and son will join him here.

Main is involved in sports and loves cross-country skiing, playing squash and taking saunas. He is not a curler he said.

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He still plays hockey and said he played junior hockey in Atikokan and has been here to play against Terrace Bay and Schreiber.

He plays no-body contact hockey now, and is thinking about playing intermediate.

Wintario grants

Main said he can help any group or organization that needs funding

by way of Wintario grants.

Any non-profit organization needing funding should approach Main for the details.

At present, Main is concentrating on settling into his new job and getting to know people in the community.

He said he really likes Terrace Bay and area and does not have any plans of leaving here in the near future.

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