

CT scanner performing beyond expectations

By Shawn Bailey

Since coming on line in late June, the CT scanner at the Dauphin Regional Health Authority has been performing beyond all expectations.

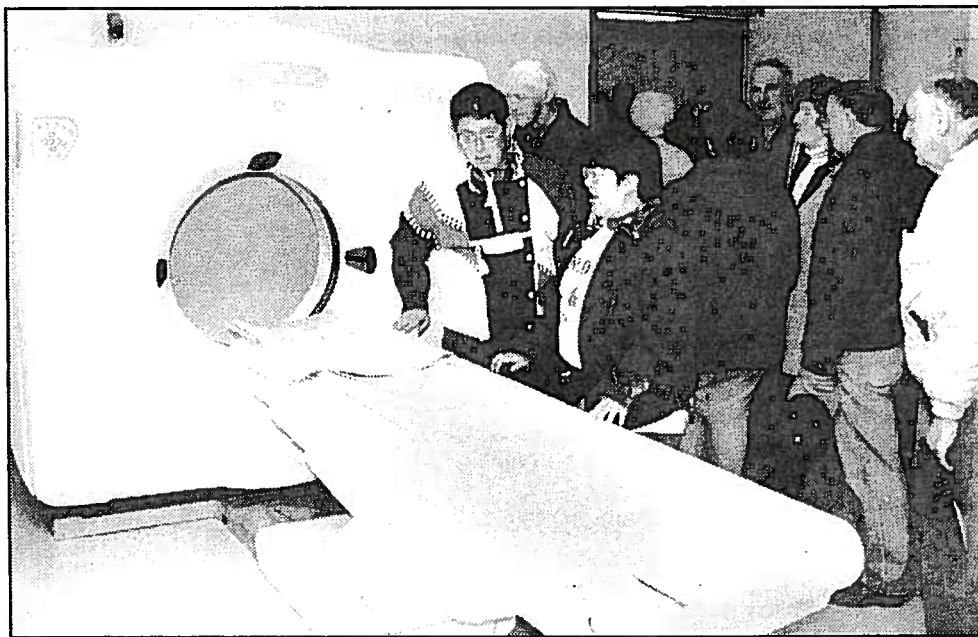
During an official opening ceremony Oct. 26, Parkland Regional Health Authority chief executive officer Andre Remillard said the original goal of performing 1,800 scans per year has been raised to approximately 3,000.

"This is the most technically advanced scanner we have in this province at this point in time," Remillard told a crowd gathered at the hospital, adding the current waiting list of four weeks for elective scans will decrease once staff become more comfortable with the scanner's operation.

"This is a very high-tech piece of equipment and there is a learning curve."

The scanner which carried a price tag of approximately \$1.2 million following necessary renovations was paid for in part with funds raised in the early 1990s by the Dauphin General Hospital Foundation.

Originally the foundation had secured more than



The public was able to view the new scanner following the ceremony.

\$700,000 towards the scanner, however, a provincial government moratorium on the purchase of the diagnostic equipment resulted in some money being returned to donors.

In the end, the foundation was able to provide \$435,000 towards the purchase, said foundation chairperson Dr. Jim Compton.

"A large portion of the funds raised had to be returned," Compton said, adding a tally of the balance sheet showed the

foundation received more than 4,000 individual and group donations ranging from \$5 to \$15,000.

The province assisted in the funding through a program which will see three CT scanners installed in rural facilities.

As well as assisting with the original purchase, Manitoba Health will cover the operating costs of the equipment, estimated to be in the neighbourhood of \$350,000 per year.

Being the first rural centre to receive a scanner is

somewhat of a coup for the PRHA said board chairperson Rene Maillard.

"It reinforces what the board has been trying to do, bring services closer to home," Maillard said.

The scanner is used to diagnose brain and spinal cord injuries, as well as diseases of the lungs, liver, kidneys and other abdominal organs.

Prior to the installation at the DRHC, area residents had to travel to either Brandon or Winnipeg to receive a scan.

Dauphin Herald nov 2/99