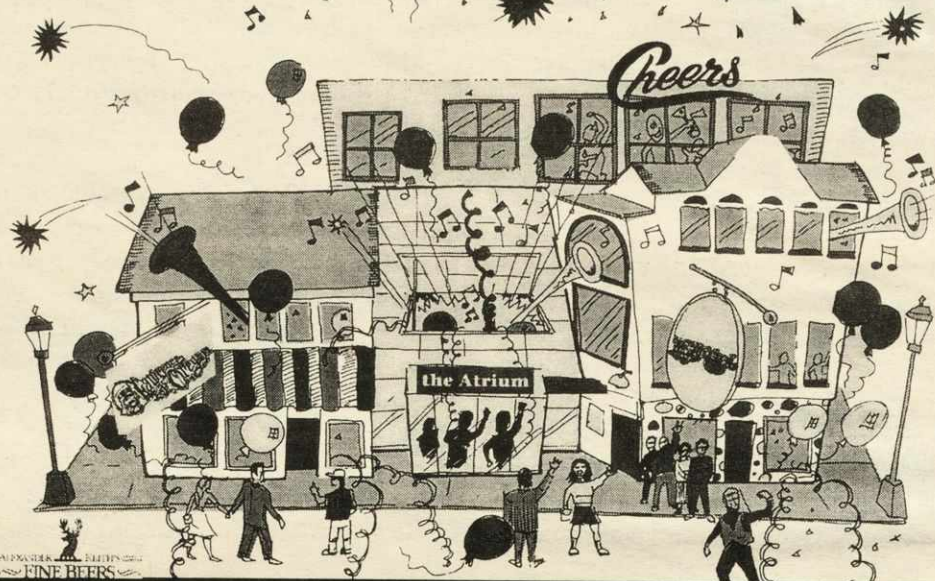


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Phone service woes almost over

BY JEN HORSEY

An end is finally in sight for those students waiting for a phone.

Technical workers at Maritime Tel & Tel spent more than a month of this summer on strike, causing delays in telecommunications service around the province.

"After the strike was settled, there was a delay in service for those who were waiting for field service," said MT&T spokesperson Pearleen Mofford.

Students returning to school and moving into residence rooms or apartments which had not previously had phone service could expect to wait for up to a month to be hooked up.

The delay for having service connected was not noticeably affected. At most the delay was only two to three days.

MT&T is now within a week of resolving their backlog said Mofford. In order to do this, MT&T has increased hours for some employees and brought back 100 workers who had been temporarily laid off due to

the reduced workload.

With the influx of students into the city and the number of people who move at the end of the summer, Mofford said that September is often a busy time for the phone company. The waiting period has returned to normal for this time of year, and students can now expect to wait a week for service calls, and two days for service connection.

The central issue in the dispute between the Union and Management this summer was job security for the company's 950 technical workers — MT&T was not able to guarantee employment. The strike, which began on July 3rd, was resolved on August 23rd when the Union voted 70 per cent in favour of the contract offered them by MT&T.

The contract between MT&T and its technical workers resulted in "necessary reductions" in their workforce through means such as job sharing, and shortened work weeks.

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