



# Letters to the editor...

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## LOOKING FOR MEMBERS STATIONED AT BAKER LAKE

Dear Editor,

I was approached this past summer by two elderly ladies from Baker Lake about some photos that were taken of them by members posted in Baker Lake in the 1950s. They were wondering if I could track the photos down, as some of the only cameras in the North in the early days were owned by members stationed here.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has old photos of their time up North (especially Baker Lake) in the early days, in the hope that we can piece together more of the history of the people and the settlements.

Spare photographs can be sent to the following address: Box 250, Baker Lake, Nunavut X0C 0A0, or I can be contacted by telephone at: (867) 793-2922.

Cpl. Tim Walton  
NCO i/c Baker Lake Detachment



## THE NINETY POUND (90#) TELEPHONE SCAM

Dear Editor,

On page 4 of the Summer 1999 issue (Vol. 64, No. 3), there is an article entitled "Phone Scam." What is written there is not quite true. The following is an article on this urban legend.

From: **The Internet TourBus (February 12, 1998)** "According to our next urban legend: On Saturday, January 24, 1998, Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans' Quarterdeck received a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service Technician that was running a test on our telephone

lines. He stated that to complete the test the QMOW should touch nine (9), zero (0), pound sign (#) and hang up. Luckily, the QMOW was suspicious and refused. Upon contacting the telephone company we were informed that by using 90# you end up giving the individual that called you access to your telephone line and allows them to place a long distance telephone call, with the charge appearing on your telephone [bill]. We were further informed that this scam has been originating from many of the local jails/prisons. Please 'pass the word'."

Well, your fearless bus driver (Crispen) spent most of Tuesday on the phone with folks from both Force 3 (the company that originally reported this story) and AT&T. As shocking as this may sound, the "nine-zero-pound" story is true ... sort of.

What the warning letter floating around the Net doesn't say is that this scam only works on telephones where you have to dial 9 to get an outside line. Unless you have to dial 9 to get an outside line at home, this scam does not affect residential telephone users. Dialling "nine-zero-pound" on a residential phone will only give you a busy signal. That's it.

On some business phones, however, dialling "nine-zero-pound" may transfer a call to an outside operator and give the caller the opportunity to call anywhere in the world and charge it to your business' phone bill ... maybe. It all depends on how your business' telephone system is set up. If your company doesn't require you to dial 9 to get an outside line (for example, if you have a direct outside telephone line on your desk or if your company's phone system requires you to dial a number other than 9 to get an outside line) the "nine-zero-pound" scam does not affect you. Also, if your company's phone system is set up so that you cannot make a long distance call