

Murray Allen Honoured for 65 years as a Mason



By Eric Bourque
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Murray Allen was in his late twenties when he joined the Freemasons.

The Yarmouth County resident – who will turn 94 later this month – has been involved in the fraternal organization ever since.

“I haven’t missed many meetings,” he said.

In an interview on June 14 – four days before he was to be presented with a 65-year bar in recognition of his longtime involvement in the Freemasons – Allen was asked to recall the time he joined.

“I was talking with another Mason and he said what a nice organization it was to belong to, so I said ‘well, alright, I’ll join.’ So I talked to my Dad. My Dad and I joined. Father and son took the three degrees together. I don’t think it’s ever happened in Yarmouth here since.”

Asked if he had any idea way back then that he would remain active with the Masons as long as he has, he smiled and said, “I certainly did not.”

While he is glad to have been a part of the organization all this time, his fellow Masons feel fortunate to have him in their group, says Ken Hatfield, who has been involved in Masons for over 35 years.

“I know we’re very proud to have Murray,” Hatfield said. “He’s a fine gentleman. He’s been an inspiration to me, I know that.”

Family and friends of Allen’s were invited to attend the dinner where he would be

officially recognized for his 65-year involvement in the Freemasons.

“He’s a member of the Eastern Star, so the Eastern Star are going to come in,” Hatfield said, referring to the June 18 event where Allen would be honoured. “People from other (Masonic) lodges from around the area will probably come in (for the occasion).”

Allen and Hatfield are members of the Hiram # 12 Lodge, part of the Yarmouth/Shelburne district of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

Barry Imber, the grand master of Nova Scotia Masons, was slated to be here to present Allen with his 65-year bar.

What drew Allen to the Freemasons 65 years ago remains true today, Hatfield says.

“Our motto is we take good men and make them better men,” Hatfield said. “If you live the Masonic code, you can’t help but become a better person.”

The Hiram # 12 lodge meets monthly except for the summer. The club has just over 40 members, Hatfield said.

