



Believes in
the power of
buying local.

Meet Allan Garrah

At age 59, not much surprises Allan anymore. He is about as laid back as one can be, but he has his eye on the "goings-on" of local business.

Born in Gananoque, Allan moved to Pembroke from an institution in Smiths Falls where he had lived since he was a toddler. In 1978 Allan had the opportunity to join Community Living and he became connected with the local area.

"I didn't mind it," he says of moving to Pembroke. "It seemed like a nice area."

Allan began working at ARC Industries, and later moved downtown to the Prospector. After 30 years, he retired, but that doesn't mean he has left the business scene. He still makes a daily trip to the Downtown to visit some of his fellow merchants who had become friends during his employment

days. He has seen a lot of change in the area, but he takes it all in stride.

"It's ok being retired," he says.

Working for local businesses had a strong impact on Allan. He prefers to buy locally, even if the price is higher. He remembers that people chose to support him by patronizing the businesses he worked at, and he feels it is important to do that himself.

Since his retirement, Allan has traveled to Las Vegas. He bowls once a week and is a regular at the Senior's Centre for Bunco. He also keeps an eye on the neighbour's place when they are out of town, as they would also do for him.

Allan is Community Living.

