

ASSESSOR'S REPORT MAY 2013

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The month of May certainly flew by!

It has been a busy month gearing up for the annual **process of discovering**, collecting and entering of data. New construction permits are sorted and ready to visit. I hope to start out in the field the first of June and finish up by the end of July. There are approximately 200 different properties to review, mostly due to the fact that they received a building permit to construct or demolish. Other permits involve a general review of a dwelling where we have received notice of pending foreclosure. Quite often these homes sit vacant and are not tended to and therefore begin to deteriorate.

It is very important for property owners to constantly review their own property data and compare what we have to what they feel it should be. For example, if a property owner removes a deck without a permit, or adds a bathroom, or finishes a basement, I need to know of these changes so that I may make the necessary adjustment to their assessment. Several people came in when I first started here three years ago to inform me that they "filled in" their pool with loam and made a lawn.

We have been working steady on **personal property** returns. However, several have still not been submitted. As in past years, we will add an estimated value to those accounts and inform the property owners of their new value. I am ecstatic to report that to date, we have two businesses that combined; have increased their equipment and fixture value by 5 million!

The new **orthoimagery** from the GeoLibrary Program 2013 has been flown for Winslow and surrounding central Maine towns. The raw aerials are available for review by the municipality but much has to be done before they are delivered for use by the general public. Stay tuned!

I did attend the annual **Vision Government Solution** Users Group Convention held in Vermont this year. Maine was well presented and the Software Program Company held several concurrent classes including report writing, GIS integration, new software products and finally an introduction to a new product using a Cloud based server. One would be able to go out in the field and work directly with their home base system. I can see this working well for big cities and it is a bit pricy, but a very top quality product. This company has also expanded their services beyond the assessment module and now includes not municipal applications such as code enforcement, registrations, etc.

The **IAAO Chapter** held their meeting in Gray with sessions on "706 notification" as an assessor's tool, learning to "run, hide or fight" in a dangerous situation. The latter was presented by the Cumberland County Sheriffs Dept.