

## **ASSESSOR'S REPORT**

**December 2014**

**Judy Mathiau, Assessor**

**Robette Bouchard, Clerical Assistant**

**Current Use Update** - Every 5 years, landowners in farmland must file with the assessor; a determination of gross income from farming activity. Failure to do so, may result in non-compliance and eventual financial penalty. As a courtesy, I send a reminder to those who are reaching the five year requirement. Of the 50 parcels current enrolled, 32 will need to file the five year report on or before April 1, 2015. A mailing was generated and sent.

Since last year, we have withdrawn 4 parcels for non-compliance which totaled approximately \$20,000 in financial penalties.

To date, we have 47 parcels enrolled in farmland which includes an estimated 3,000 classified acres.

Tree growth parcels total 96 with 5,000 classified acres. Of those 96, we have 7 parcels that must recertify by the end of 2015.

**Welcome Packets** - with Bette's assistance, we have successfully updated the welcome packet that was designed for new Winslow property owners. Bette mailed 45 packets to new owners (on the record since April 1<sup>st</sup>). The packets include a welcome brochure and additional material from public works, public safety and the assessor's office. Also included in the packet is a library book mark and a copy of the new owner's property record.

We welcome (no pun intended) feedback, any further public information to be included, stickers, etc. Contact our office for a copy of the packet if interested.

**BETR PROGRAM – Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement.** At this time of year, businesses are applying for a reimbursement on personal property tax that was paid to the town during the previous calendar year. The first step in this process is the filing of intent to the assessor on a form (801) that lists the items they feel qualify for reimbursement. We, in turn, complete the form by confirming the assessed values and property tax; sign the form and return to the taxpayer, which they then submit along with an application to the State of Maine Revenue Services.