

## **Maine Surplus Fact Sheet**

### **State Surplus Properties – Everybody’s Swap Shop**



*Trucks available at State Surplus*

When one considers that the state government of Maine is the largest employer in the State of Maine, they must realize that every problem facing every community and every business exists in enormous scale with each body that looks after providing the necessary services to the public. This is true of waste management, and in particular, the management of state surplus property. A model operation for the disposal of unwanted materials exists in the State Surplus Property Division of the Bureau of Purchases in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Regulated by 5 MRSA Ch.155 § 1811, Surplus Property is charged: “To transfer to or between state departments or agencies or educational institutions, or sell supplies, materials and equipment which are surplus, obsolete, or unused”. Operating with what may be considered a necessary low profile to the general public; State Surplus has always attempted to maintain a visible presence with state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions and non-profits, which comprise its primary audience.

**State Surplus Property**  
**Located at 85 Leighton Rd.**  
**Augusta**  
**Business hours**  
**7:30-4:15, Monday through**  
**Friday**  
**Telephone is 287-4586**

Organizations that are eligible to use the State Surplus services, primarily state government agencies, municipal government entities – including schools, and qualifying non-profit agencies are issued a limited number of donee identification cards for control purposes. This permits the user to visit the facilities or sites where property is available for sale.



*Equipment available at State Surplus*

Periodically, the familiar call or notice of public auction brings the dedicated agency to the forefront however. Public auctions are conducted 5-6 times per year and property is available to donees at fixed prices prior to auctions. Typical items that can be obtained are: plow trucks, pickup trucks, sedans, police cruisers, snowmobiles, boats and miscellaneous Dept. of Transportation equipment.

## *Maine Dept. of Transportation Retirees Await Auction*

The staff is also good about answering inquiries and even keeping shopping lists of the specific needs of some organizations. On a regular basis and occasionally in special situations where the project demands, auctions and sales are scheduled for the general public. Making every effort to make services understood and available, announcements and lists of items have been posted for the last few years on the agency's web site: <http://www.maine.gov/bgs/centralserv/surplus/index.htm>.



## *Federal Surplus Property*

After years of operating out of abandoned state buildings, such as, the barn for the old Stevens School for Girls or AMHI's Campbell Barn, the agency has found a new home in a facility that was recently built for it at 85 Leighton Road in Augusta. The 25,000 square foot structure shares space with the State Central Warehouse – two agencies which are not meant to store items but to make materials available at reasonable cost where needed when needed.

State Surplus Properties Director, Andrew Vellani, manages a close staff of seven that have been together for several years. Considering the magnitude of some of the projects accomplished under the pressure of occasionally unusual time constraints by the staff, the agency performs its duties in a manner that can be admired by all those professionals in our field of waste management and recycling, as well as, being appreciated by every taxpayer.

Most recently, the agency was handed the responsibility of dismantling major sections of the old AMHI. This came after playing a key role in relocating several of the offices of the Department of Human Services. While the move of some of these DHS bureaus to their new facilities was taking place, the Maine Department of Transportation was given the go ahead to move from temporary facilities in Winthrop back to their renovated offices in Augusta.

## *Surplus computers waiting for their chance to be reused*

Not to give the impression that their responsibility is only limited to the Capital area, one should consider that the closing of State Liquor Stores has been on-going throughout the year. This was in conjunction with the closing of the old Maine Youth Center in South Portland, which now has a new facility. Surplus Property has also been involved with the Clean State Initiative, and through a contract with Environ Services Inc., recycles thousands of pieces of Universal Waste focusing primarily on computer and electronic equipment.



*The staff picture from left to right; Seth Nichols, Michelle Woodard, Jason Couture, Andy Vellani (Mgr.), Ron Dishman, Carl LaFrance (Supv.), Michael Chase.*

Through it all, there are few agencies that can claim to be as helpful and pleasant a team as may be found with the State Surplus staff.