

# HAINES Alaska NEWS

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- Just Thinkin'

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## Radio Shack, Etc.

Part I of a series –  
“Multi-Tasking in Haines”

by Gary Lidholm

A sign on the Haines Radio Shack store says “Motorcycle Friendly.” If you ask owner Patty Campbell about it she will tell you that it is not only because she herself owns and rides a Harley Davidson, she believes that in today’s tight business environment, you must be friendly to all sorts of clients.

When it comes to multi-tasking business, that is, having multiple operations in a small town environment to make ends meet, Patty Campbell is the classic case. A glance at her store front on Main Street tells part of the story. There are signs within and without for Radio Shack, AT&T Cellular,



Radio Shack, Etc. photo by Gary Lidholm

Haines Cable, and Stitch-Em-Up on this store front, her enterprise Design. In the past, the building also includes the cable service for her Internet Lounge nearby Skagway. Although not advertised

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## Palmer Mineral Exploration Update

Summary: Presentation to the Haines Chamber of Commerce on July 9th

By Gary Lidholm

No, the Palmer mining exploration project is not located in Palmer, Alaska! The project is located along the BC-Alaska border and only 40 miles from Haines. It takes its name from the logger who discovered the deposit in 1969 – Merrill Palmer.

A crew of 20-30 geologists, helicopter pilots, laborers, cooks, etc., including eight local people, are assisting this summer in further exploration of a known deposit of copper,

zinc, gold and silver in the Haines Borough. According to Darwin Green, Vice President of Constantine Metal Resources of Vancouver, British Columbia, the exploratory work this summer, headquartered out of 33 Mile, will spend \$2.5 million this year in the area. Green, who spoke to the Haines Chamber of Commerce at their monthly luncheon on July 9th, said the exploration work is needed to determine the extent of the

deposit. “Hopefully, this will someday turn from an exploratory project to a development project and then an operational one,” he said.

Test drilling is underway in the alpine country near Glacier Creek, near the border across from 33 Mile. A helicopter based at the Roadhouse ferries the crew and supplies to the otherwise inaccessible site.

A number of companies

(Continued on page 2)

# Haines Borough Population: How We Compare

*Some surprising facts about our local population*

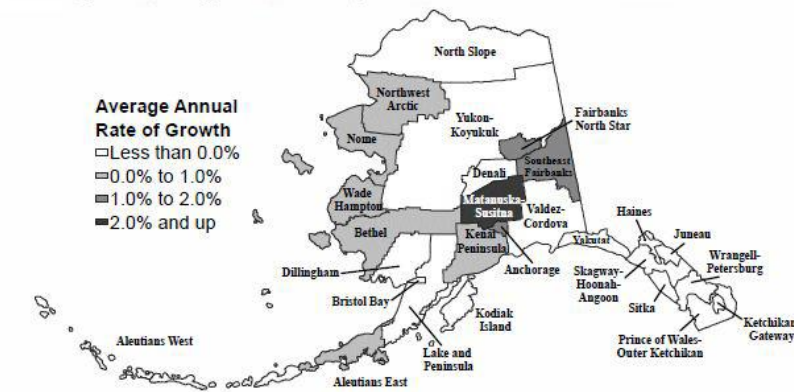
by Roger Maynard

According to the April issue of Alaska Economic Trends magazine, published by the Alaska Department of Labor, Alaska's population grew about 10 percent in the past decade. This compares favorably to the rest of the U.S., which had an 8.8 percent growth rate during the same period.

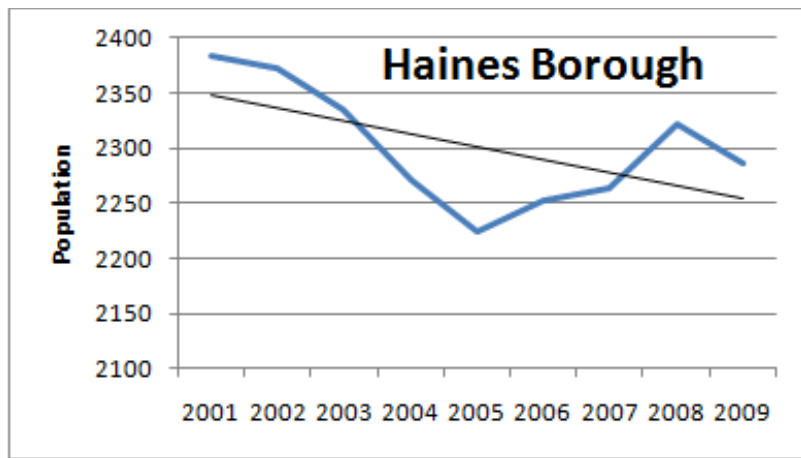
"Most growth has been concentrated in two areas," writes Labor Commissioner Click Bishop. "Since 2000, the Mat-Su has grown by more than 42 percent, while Anchorage has grown more than 11 percent." However some areas, like Southeast Alaska have declined.

Population trends are measured by natural increase and net migration, including four components: births, deaths, in-migration and out-migration. Alaska's growth has come from natural increase (births minus deaths). Net migration (in-migration minus out-

**Population Growth Rates**  
Average annual growth rates, Alaska 2000 to 2009



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Demographics Unit



migration) resulted in a loss of 1,368 people during the same period. On average, 92,000 people migrate to and from Alaska each year.

Haines experienced a decline in population during the first half of the decade; then an increase through 2008. The natural increase

for this period was 36, with a net migration of -142. The department attributes part of the out-migration to an aging population. Alaska's median age has increased by six years over the last decade, from 27.5 to 33.5. And the Haines population has the oldest median age of any borough in Alaska — 46.4 years.

## Conclusions

Population statistics are really only part of the story, but they can help decision-makers, whether in setting up a business or prioritizing government services.

Haines is a great retirement place, but how long will this be a nice place to live without an economy that attracts young people and families? That's why the Alaska Alliance for Commerce, Inc. / Haines Alaska News supports economic growth and a healthy business environment in our town.

For more details on the above article visit the Alaska Department of Labor 2010 Economic Trends magazine website at <http://labor.state.ak.us/trends/>.

Trends magazine is also available as a free mailed subscription — order through the same website.

## PALMER MINE UPDATE

*(Continued from page 1)*

have explored this deposit, with Constantine Metals now owning the mineral rights. "A real breakthrough occurred in 2007," Green said "when test drilling showed some real results, especially for copper." The company considers the potential to be high for a

copper-rich operation. The geology and logistics appear to be favorable.

The company started gathering baseline environmental data, particularly for water quality, in 2008, anticipating the significant environmental analysis that would be required for the numerous permits. Should the project go operational, an underground mine is anticipated that would

actually have a small footprint.

Timelines for development are dependent upon the exploration now underway to determine the size of the deposit. According to the company website, geologic conditions appear to be favorable and they point to the proximity of Haines, the highway and deep water port.

Constantine brings a com-

mitment to environmental sensitivity and will require a deep water port and infrastructure in Haines to market their product. Constantine estimates that 200-400 jobs would be created during a development phase and 200-350 jobs during the operational lifetime of the mine.

See more at the website here <http://www.constantinemetals.com/projects/palmer/>

# Haines Borough Meeting Notes

by Roger Maynard

The following comments are presented as a service so our readers can stay informed on local current events, and do not constitute the minutes or official record of any meeting. Meeting minutes, agenda and other documents are available at the Haines Borough web site.

The July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Haines Borough Assembly was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Jan Hill, and assembly members Hoffman, Rossman, Waterman, Smith and Lapp present. Assemblyman Vick was excused.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Ely spoke regarding a heli-skiing complaint he filed, saying that the borough staff showed a lack of follow-through, and that he would like to see stronger action by the borough manager and assembly. Ely said the borough

needs to make sure the heli-ski operators “play by the rules.” Ely said he was sitting on his porch on a calm, beautiful Easter Sunday when some skiers apparently skied out of the “zone,” and the helicopter flew out of its designated flight path. There needs to be a clear definition of locations. The helicopter flew up a valley which makes a lot more noise than if the helicopter flies up a ridge top. Therefore, according to Ely, the designated routes may need to be looked at again.

Bill Kurz spoke regarding the funding for the walkway to the Chilkat Center. He said if the borough is pouring money into the center, then they should own it.

## MAYOR’S REPORT

Senator Murkowski visited Haines last week and met with Mayor Hill, Republican District Chair

Robert Venables and Borough Manager Mark Earnest. She went to the Elks where she visited with nearly everyone present, and then to the Haines Assisted Living facility. Murkowski remarked several times how much she loves Haines.

Mayor Hill thanked everyone who participated in any way in the Fourth of July Celebration, and said she has received nothing but “rave reviews.”

Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Centennial Picnic. There will be a community picture taken on that day, and some businesses will have photos posted in their windows showing what they looked like 100 years ago.

August 11<sup>th</sup> will be an environmental tour aboard the Ryn-dam. Attendees will need to apply before that date, and picture ID will be required.

A citizen has requested and ordinance allowing 4-wheelers on the streets in certain areas, similar to the way snow machines are al-

lowed in winter. The issue has been referred to the Public Safety Committee and Mayor Hill is looking for volunteers to serve on that committee.

## NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 10-07-213 authorizing the Borough manager to enter into a construction agreement with Southeast Road Builders, Inc. for the Port Chilkoot Dock Waterfront Improvements project for an amount not to exceed \$1,886,697 was passed 4 to 1 with Assemblyman Smith voting “no.”

Resolution 10-07-214 authorizing the Borough Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with Appraisal Company of Alaska to provide tax assessing services for the borough for a one-year term, renewable for two additional one-year extensions was passed unanimously.

Resolution 10-07-215 approving certain unincorporated communi-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## RADIO SHACK, ETC.

*(Continued from page 1)*

“It is just too hard to make it here on one business alone,” Patty said without looking up from her embroidery machine, the newest part of her operation. “The town is just too small. When we had logging, more fish processing, and the tank farm all healthy we were a prosperous town. I consider this my home town and I will con-

tinue to work at whatever it takes to stay here.”

The Radio Shack sign is by far the largest on the building and is one of two anchors of Campell’s operation. “The cable business was first and is the largest segment,” she said. “The Radio Shack dealership is also an important element.”

In addition, Patty is the authorized sales representative for AT&T cell phone services, which lends itself well to the

Radio Shack inventory. She laments the fact that Haines doesn’t get the technology such as 3G technology as fast as some areas, but at least we have some service.

The new-

est business is Stitch-Em-Up Design, where a computer-driven fancy sewing machine stitches logos on jackets and other material. “I’m in partnership on this with Kathy Lapp from 33 Mile,” Patty said. “Kathy can capture business up the valley while I concentrate on town.” And then she added, “Isn’t it interesting that as successful as 33 Mile Road House is, the Lapp’s also see the need to diversify?”

The embroidery business is in its infancy and Patty said she and Kathy will soon be attending some training whereby they will be able to take photos and logos for digitizing and personalize the designs.

Patty Campbell has long been involved politically and in community affairs. She frequently attends Borough Assembly meetings and is a member of the Haines Energy Sustainability Commission. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Haines Chamber of Commerce. A resident of Haines since

1979, Patty has long advocated a borough government friendly to business. “Sometimes the Borough actually competes against us,” she said. “I had a going business here in this building, offering an internet lounge with eight computers for people to use. But then the library offered free internet service to library card holders. How can I compete with that?”

The Campbell operation is truly a family run affair with her two sons, Andy and Daniel, helping with the multi-tasking on a daily basis. Husband Rick is also involved, especially during the winter when he is not working at outdoor jobs elsewhere. A visit to the store to buy that needed TV cable, special battery or speaker wire will find Patty and the boys jumping from Radio Shack sales to cable TV inquiries to the embroidery machine located upstairs. She summed up the operation well when she said, “I can’t stand sitting and doing nothing.”

I doubt that we will ever see Patty “...sitting and doing nothing.”

Patty Campbell working at Stitch-Em-Up Design  
photo by Gary Lidholm



**BOROUGH MEETING NOTES**

(Continued from page 3)

ties and their respective native village council and/or incorporated nonprofit entity for participation in the FY 11 Community Revenue Sharing Program passed unanimously.

Resolution 10-0-216 authorizing the manager to execute a contract extension and change order with Dawson Construction, Inc. or the Haines Schools Replacement/Renovations project to construct a steel structure covered play area for an amount not to exceed \$156,212 passed 4-1 with Assemblyman Rossman voting “no”.

Resolution 10-07-217 ratifying and adopting the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Haines Borough and Public Employees Local 71 was passed unanimously.

Resolution 10-07-218 authorizing the manager to execute a contract extension and change order with Henry Construction for the Chilkat Center

Pedestrian Bridge project to construct an additional set of access stairs for an amount not to exceed \$18,000 was postponed until the next borough Assembly meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Resolution 10-07-219 authorizing the Borough Manager to task PND Engineers, Inc. with providing contract administration and inspection services for the PC Waterfront Improvements project for an amount not to exceed \$88,460 passed 4-1 with Assemblyman Smith voting “no”.

Resolution 10-07-220 authorizing the Borough Manager to enter into a construction contract with Northern Fuel Pump Upgrades Project on a time and materials basis for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 passed unanimously.

Resolution 10-07-221 authorizing the Borough Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with Carson Dorn, Inc. for contract and bidding document services for the Barnett

Pump Station Replacement Project for an amount not to exceed \$20,000 passed unanimously.

Resolution 10-07-222 authorizing the Borough Manager to task PND Engineers, Inc. with providing geotechnical test pits for the South Portage Cove Harbor Expansion project for an amount not to exceed \$25,560 passed unanimously.

Ordinance 10-07-233 to determine whether foreclosed property deeded to the Borough shall be retained for a public purpose was introduced and set for a first public hearing on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Other New Business**

The Liquor License Application for the Klondike Inn was approved unanimously.

The assembly discussed the two applications for hardship tax exemption, and was advised by the borough manager that this decision could have far-reaching effects. The issue was referred to the finance committee for further research and recommendations.

The Waiver of Timely Applica-

tion for Senior Property Tax Exemption (2) from George McCament and from Neil Ramsey were denied.

The next meeting date will be 5:30 p.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July.

**ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Assemblyman Smith noted that earlier in the evening a large yacht appeared to be looking for moorage, and wondered if the harbormaster was answering the radio.

Assemblyman Hoffman said at the next meeting he would like to start a discussion about adopting some of the recommendations of the Haines Energy Task Force. He also thanked borough employees for working on a broken water pipe in the vicinity of his business, but suggested that the repair timing was bad because there was a cruise ship in town and it affected access to some businesses.

Assemblyman Rossman asked about progress on finding a new harbormaster. Manager Earnest said the cutoff for the next round of applications is this week.

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