

midsummer ancestor dance

i live in a very beautiful place, the comox valley vancouver island on british columbia's west coast. the air is clear and clean to breathe, the waters of the glacier fed rivers and the oceans are fresh and filled with fish and shellfish, forests are rich in flora, fauna and food mushrooms, and the farmers on our agricultural lands produce foods from organic and conventional methods. our year round farmers' market offers vegetables, poultry, four-legged meats, berries, nuts and herbs. i know and trust my neighbours in my cohousing community which in turn is held in this valley by the larger community of folks many of whom care deeply about the land we live on and the future we are facing on our planet.

in may 2012 i travelled to montreal chicago and toronto experiencing very different living environments and on my return was reminded yet again of the many blessings in my life in this special place. the news that greeted me was profoundly disturbing, there is an active proposal being pursued to place a coal mine in the very heart of our valley just above the waters that produce the best oysters on the west coast, baynes sound. the fishery here is one of the last remaining productive industries and our local fishers rely on these waters for their livelihoods. the possibility of toxic mine tailings leaching into the waters of baynes sound and the aquifers that supply the water we drink is unbelievable. many of us are simply aghast that anyone could take such an application seriously.

unfortunately in this world where the mythology of financial security through resource extraction and man's inherent right to use the earth's richness to advance our own needs and greed, this proposal is supported politically and moving ahead despite consistent, organized clearly articulated local resistance.

this ancestor dance and song was created and performed as an honouring and calling in of the ancestors of this land to help us in this time of challenge to this sacred place. the performance is a spontaneous response to the land and all living beings seen and unseen upon and within the land.

may we remember who we are
may we heal ourselves and our world

june 20, 2012