

“SALMON BLESSING”

PORT MOODY ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY FINGERLING FESTIVAL

Saturday, 05th May 2007

Rev. Dr. David Spence, festilogist

We come to this place to celebrate the FINGERLING FESTIVAL.....

**but before the celebration begins,
we pause to remember how all life is sacred
and know that blessing is central and essential to all
that is about to happen in the FINGERLING FESTIVAL.**

**On this day of all days --- Saturday, 05th May 2007 ----
under the waning of the full moon and the rising of the
sun ----**

**in the brief moment in time that is ours ----
I introduce you to a SALMON BLESSING.**

**I will give you the words of the Blessing in a moment;
but first,**

**We need to know that a SALMON BLESSING goes two
ways:**

**it travels from the voice and soul of the human to the
salmon;**

**and, at the same time, it travels from the salmon spirit to
the human soul.**

**Understanding a SALMON BLESSING traveling either
way involves four virtues:**

PRAISE GENEROSITY WONDER HOPE

**PRAISE be to God, who creates all things wise and
wonderful**

**Praise be to the Divine Originator of Life
by whose many names we sing the song of Praise
Allah (Bismallah Rahim)
Shekinah
Mazda
Shiva
Gitchi Manitou**

**Praise be to the Holy One who breathes life into the
water, earth, air and fire.**

**GENEROSITY is about giving all we have for the life of
the other.**

**Here at the Port Moody Ecological Society's
hatchery there is technological knowledge and hard
resources; there is imagination and ingenuity; there is
diligence and dedication.**

**These resources allow salmon to vision returning to
their home waters in a timely manner to spawn another
generation for life.**

**There is also the generosity of the salmon when
they give their flesh to be eaten that other life forms
might be nourished.**

**WONDER and awareness circle around the fascinating
cycle of life as tiny eggs evolve into small frys, and then
grow in fingerlings and finally emerge as adults.**

**Salmon have that special quality to be able to live in
both worlds --- in the world of fresh water of creeks and
rivers and in the world of salt water of seas and oceans.**

**We live in the salmon and the salmon live in us
and together we form a synergy of one creation.**

**We are amazed and filled with awe and delight.
As we watch the fish in the buckets wiggle and jiggle,
we become aware that they are about searching for the
opening to the next phase of life.**

**HOPE in the now and for the future
--- that when we live with care and compassion,
sustainability of earth is real and possible;
--- that when we live with love and justice,
sustainability of clean water can be assured and
guaranteed.**

**Four virtues --- PRAISE GENEROSITY WONDER HOPE
combined create a Salmon Blessing.**

**But there is one more part of the blessing to know and
that is this: the act of releasing salmon is a blessing in
and by itself for them, for us, for the world.**

**As you take your bucket from the fish tanks to the creek
side, and bending down, dipping the bucket into the
waters of the creek, whisper the words of the BLESSING
*“swim, salmon, swim”***

**And, if you listen in silence, you might be able to hear
above the sound of the rushing waters of the creek,
the salmon whisper to you *“run, children, run”***

**The time is now to begin the SALMON BLESSING
Go and do what you have come to do.
Follow the beat of the drum to the edge of the water.
Blessed Be.....So Be It.....Amen.**