

***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



## Islands Trust

### 2019 Nominee Profile

#### **C'tasi:a -Elder Geraldine Manson, Gabriola Island Local Trust Area**

**Category:** Individual

**Project:** Celebrating nineteen years of knowledge holding and sharing

**Nominator(s):** April Vannini and Gloria Filax

**Project Description<sup>1</sup>:**

Snuneymuxw Elder Geraldine Manson (C'tasi:a) is nominated for her continued work over the past nineteen years working as a volunteer with the Gabriola Historical and Museum Society (GHMS). Geraldine is well-versed in the land of Gabriola as she holds the knowledge passed down from her ancestors and oral history that gave her understanding about Snuneymuxw and Coast Salish territory.

Since 2000, Elder Manson began working with the GHMS as a knowledge holder and spiritual guide on the Museum's Truth and Reconciliation initiatives, collaborating with GHMS on exhibit displays, and provides tours on the site and teaches about the importance of petroglyphs. She has also dedicated her time to being a liaison of understanding for Gabriola residents to understand the importance and sacred significance of ancestors and sites within the Gabriola Island Trust Area.

Elder Manson's relationship with all organizations, committees and groups throughout Gabriola is grounded in the wisdom shared with her through traditional teachings and protocol. These teachings support ways of learning together in a mutual respectful and collaborative process. Elder Manson has also been working with many community groups to share knowledge on how to work collaboratively with Snuneymuxw, and how to respect, acknowledge and honour the unceded territory on which we live today. Some other organizations she has also worked with are the Gabriola Arts Council, Truth and Reconciliation Speaker Series, and Vancouver Island University. She also provides opening blessings and welcome at Gabriola events, which connect residents of Gabriola to Snuneymuxw land and waters.

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<sup>1</sup> Information based nominee's submission to 2019 Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award program.