



PRESS RELEASE

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Volunteers Remove Invasive Ivy from Gerald Island

Nanoose Bay, British Columbia — From April 10–13, a dedicated team of 28 BC Marine Trails (BCMT) volunteers returned to Gerald Island in the Traditional Territory of the Snaw-naw-as First Nation for their semi-annual invasive species pull.

Now in its eighth year, the project targets English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), a fast-spreading vine introduced during the mid-20th century that continues to threaten the island's native ecosystem. Over the course of four days, volunteers paddled or boated to the island to cut, haul, and burn ivy and invasive Himalayan blackberry— ultimately removing the equivalent of 238 single-person tarp loads.

Thanks to their efforts, a trail now stretches between the southwest beach and southeast cove, a new loop trail is in progress, and numerous trees around the island have been freed from climbing, flowering ivy — preventing further spread. The work also unearthed and removed hazardous debris from a long-abandoned homestead. [History of Gerald Island](#).

Native plants like chocolate lilies, fawn lilies, and coastal woodferns are already reclaiming their place in the landscape — a sign that ecological recovery is well underway.

The next cleanup is scheduled for Fall 2025, with plans to finish the loop trail, restore the northeast cove, and continue clearing ivy from areas of remaining density.

Special thanks to the Trans Canada Trail for contributing to funding the event.

Find photos of the spring 2025 event [here](#). All photos attributed to Sam Cutcliffe.

Helpful links

- [BC Marine Trails map](#)
- [Who is BC Marine Trails?](#)
- [BC Marine Trails media kit](#)
- [History of Gerald Island](#)