



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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4.5 Metric Tonnes of Invasive Species Removed from Gerald Island

Nanoose Bay, British Columbia – 35 volunteers removed and burned approximately 4.5 metric tonnes of invasive plants during a five-day restoration effort on Gerald Island (Sept 30-Oct 4th), led by BC Marine Trails (BCMT). Primary targets included English ivy and Himalayan blackberry.

Volunteers removed an estimated 341 “person-loads” of invasive vegetation (measured by how many people were needed to carry each tarp of vegetation). Using a conservative estimate of 30 pounds per load, the total biomass cleared reached roughly 4.5 metric tonnes. A total of 842 volunteer hours were logged during the event.

The progress is significant. When the project began, English ivy stretched from the high-tide line across the southern tip of the island and up onto the bluffs. Today, approximately 6,000 square metres have been cleared, pushing the island’s “ivy line” inland. Well-marked trails also help protect fragile vegetation by directing visitors away from sensitive areas.

This spring, 85 volunteers removed and burned 616 tarpaul-loads of ivy and blackberry, estimated at around 8 tonnes. In the recent fall event, volunteers focused on tackling fruiting ivy climbing and strangling the island's trees, essential in reducing future spread. A total of 125 trees were addressed.

Strong indications of ecological recovery are visible. Native species such as chocolate lilies, fawn lilies, camas, and coastal wood ferns are re-establishing across previously impacted areas.

The next cleanup is scheduled for April 2027.

[Photos from the event are available here.](#) All photos attributed to BC Marine Trails.

Quotes:

“Each time we come to Gerald Island and look at the ivy that still remains, it feels a little overwhelming. We get to work just the same and at the end of each day we marvel at what we have accomplished. There’s plenty more to do and we’ll look forward to seeing volunteers join us in the spring.”

— Karina Younk, BCMT Board Chair, Gerald Island Lead

“This project shows what’s possible when community members come together to care for the coast. Returning volunteers are continually surprised by the speed of ecological recovery on the island.”

— Sam Cutcliffe, BCMT Communications & Stewardship Coordinator

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Additional Information

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