

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Memory Island Provincial Park Cleared of Scotch Broom

Shawnigan Lake, BC: Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Parks & Trails volunteers along with BC Parks staff, and student BC Park Rangers, worked together this June to clear Memory Island Provincial Park of invasive Scotch broom. [The small island located within Shawnigan Lake is a Provincial Park](#) that is cooperatively managed by the CVRD.

For the past three years the CVRD Parks & Trails Volunteer Program has worked with dedicated community volunteers and BC Parks to remove overpopulation of blooming invasive Scotch broom on the island, some of which had grown to a great height. This year, the team can claim success as all of the large plants that were producing seed have been cut and removed from the island by boat to be properly disposed of at a local waste disposal facility.

This year's collaborative effort took place on June 25 and 26, and saw an impressive 1,200 kilograms of Scotch broom taken out of the park.

"It is rare in the world of invasive species removal to have a clear win like this one, so this project feels like a real success," said CVRD Parks Volunteer Coordinator, Elizabeth Aitken. Katy Fulton, Cowichan Area Supervisor with BC Parks added, "Collaborating with community to enhance habitat for dozens of species unique to this area is worth celebrating. Thanks to the strong team for coming out."

Monitoring and removal of emerging Scotch broom plants will need to continue into the future as the seed bank lasts for many years. However, for now the native flora on the island has room to grow.

BC Parks and the CVRD honours Indigenous Peoples' connection to the land and respects the importance of their diverse teachings, traditions, and practices within these territories. Memory Island's special ecosystem provides habitat for a variety of native species of plants and animals.

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As seen left to right: Elizabeth Aitken (CVRD Parks Volunteer Coordinator), Declan Pender (BC Parks Student Ranger), Dinah Clark (CVRD Parks Volunteer), Bradyn Uppal (BC Parks Student Ranger), Kim Barnard (CVRD Parks Volunteer), Amelia Marshall (BC Parks Student Ranger), Glenn Gilmour (CVRD Parks Volunteer), and Emma Aasman (BC Parks Student Ranger) pose on Memory Island during a June 2024 Scotch broom busting event.



As seen left to right: Declan Pender, Emma Aasman, and Amelia Marshall, (not pictured; Bradyn Uppal) BC Parks Student Ranger Crew Members, pose in front of one of the piles of invasive Scotch broom removed from Memory Island this June.



BC Parks Cowichan Area Supervisor, Katy Fulton, is shielded by a large pile of Scotch broom which was removed by boat from Memory Island.