



Taking a dip in Teakerne Arm, Desolation Sound. Photo: Tracey Rayson.

When complete, the resort will feature a Solarice Wellness Spa plus a 60-slip marina.

## **Earls Cove**

At the north end of the peninsula, the ferry to Powell River docks at Earl's Cove, also near Skookumchuck Narrows Provincial Park, where the Skookumchuk, the world's fastest flowing tidal marine rapids, pass the tidal flow from Sechelt Inlet. Earls Cove and Egmont are gateway communities for canoeing or kayaking to Sakinaw Lake, which opens to the salt water of the Agamemnon Channel. The 50-minute BC Ferries trip across Jervis Inlet and up Agamemnon Channel, (which travels past Nelson Island to Saltery Bay), is where Highway 101 continues to the Upper Sunshine Coast and Powell River.

## Saltery Bay

On the north shore of Jervis Inlet, the Upper Sunshine Coast area is well documented as having some of the best mountain biking trails in the province, most of which are clearly marked with a white mountain bike symbol. There is a challenging ascent at the beginning of your ride on the Elephant Bay Loop, a 48-kilometre (30-mile) easy ride that will keep you peddling most of the day. Some of the best ocean fishing is found in the Lang Creek Estuary, approximately 22 kilometres



Kayaking the Copeland Islands. Photo: Graham Osborne/VCM Tourism.

(13.5 miles) west of Saltery Bay on the west side of Hwy 101. Beach casting is popular here for spring salmon from mid-September through late October. A mermaid sighting off shore from Saltry Bay Provincial Park is imminent: a 3-metre bronzed Emerald Princess is anchored in 18 metres of water, the first underwater statue in Canada.

## **Powell River**

The regional district of Powell River (pop. 19,599) stretches along the lengthy shoreline from Saltery Bay to Lund. It is renowned for

scuba diving with over 100 dive sites in the immediate vicinity, also considered as one of the best salt and freshwater fishing destinations in Canada. Jacques Cousteau claimed Powell River's emerald waters were "second only to the Red Sea," and a dive in these parts quickly reveals why. The Powell River may be the second shortest river in the world at just 500 metres long, but it connects with a string of lakes: Powell, Goat, and Windsor, which characterize much of the inland region. Laying claim to one of the mildest climates in the country, year-round temperature averages