



# EXPERIENCING ISLAND PARADISE

Residential resort communities are springing up around Vancouver Island in response to the desire of so many to make their home in this piece of paradise.

BY LESLIE PETERSON

□ Welcome to the largest island on North America's West Coast; experience its magnificent scenery and temperate climate and enjoy an abundance of leisure activities, from skiing, sailing and swimming to golf, fishing, hiking, diving, mountain biking and whale watching. To name but a few:

Developers on Vancouver Island know they're living in what many consider paradise so they are busy building new residential resort communities to satisfy this demand. On these pages we travel to nine of these highly desirable properties, from the Comox Valley in the north to Victoria's northwest outskirts, from fractional and full-ownership condominiums to magnificent oceanfront residences and world-class golf communities. We head from north to south, along the coast, leading off with:

**Villas at Saratoga Beach**, halfway between Courtenay and Campbell River in the Comox Valley marks the beginning of the redevelopment of the Saratoga Beach area. Located on more than three acres, with 355 feet of walk-on waterfront, the community offers buyers either one-third or full ownership, each home with two private, oceanview balconies and elevated on

wood posts to maximize views of cruise ships and coastal mountains. Phase 1 occupancy scheduled for November.

[www.saratogabeachvillas.com](http://www.saratogabeachvillas.com)

**The Cliffs Over Maple Bay**, a premiere golf course and residential community in the Cowichan Valley, is located 10 minutes from Duncan and less than an hour's drive north of Victoria. Phase 1 sold out in less than a week and when all five phases are complete the development will total 370 homes and about the same number of condominiums. This planned community also includes a Greg Norman-designed golf course. Views overlook the golf course and the Strait of Georgia as well as the valley.

[www.cliffsovermaplebay.com](http://www.cliffsovermaplebay.com)

**Eaglewood at Qualicum Beach**, an exclusive new community of single-detached homes only a five-minute walk from Qualicum Beach and a 30-minute drive north from Nanaimo, backs on to Eaglecrest Golf Club. The first release of 13 homes is selling briskly as the last of these nears completion; the second phase's 25 homes have just been released. Landscaping is in place and two stunning show homes are wowing the steady flow of visitors.

[www.eaglewoodatqualicumbeach.com](http://www.eaglewoodatqualicumbeach.com)

**Bayview Gardens** is located in the heart of Parksville, close to lovely sandy beaches, restaurants, cafés, shops and services. The 35 designer suites all offer two bedrooms plus den, marvellous ocean and mountain

Nine highly desirable properties, from the Comox Valley to Victoria's outskirts, are beckoning buyers to the pleasure of living on Vancouver Island. Above: Eaglewood streetscape at Qualicum Beach.