

## Spotlight on Local Arts Project - Photography Exhibit on the Unique Lives and Experiences of Castlegar folk.

Documentary filmmaker, photographer and long time Basin resident Rachel Schmidt received an arts grant from the Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and the Castlegar Arts Council to explore community identity in Castlegar. Rachel is interested in photographing images and stories that tie us together as a community. She will spend the next several months exploring the heart of Castlegar - the rivers, lakes, mountains and the people. Rachel is interested in hearing from local residents about what makes you feel like you belong in Castlegar, and what gives you a sense of place, meaning and togetherness?



"I want the photographs to reflect who we are, what we care about and why we love living on this amazing Kootenay land. Castlegar is spread out which causes a natural disconnect at times but art has a remarkable ability to foster solidarity, strengthen community identity and celebrate our unique lives and experiences," said Rachel.

The photographs will be showcased at a community exhibit next Spring and Rachel hopes to find them permanent homes in various locations around Castlegar. She is also recording the sounds of day to day life in Castlegar to create a photo essay that will be used to shine a light on the community of Castlegar, celebrate our citizens and capture the hearts of visitors.

You can find Rachel and the project on [www.Facebook.com/TheHeartofCastlegar](http://www.Facebook.com/TheHeartofCastlegar), by email at [wulf@telus.net](mailto:wulf@telus.net) or at [www.rachelschmidt.net](http://www.rachelschmidt.net).