

# NORTHERN HAUTE COUTURE

**Designer Catherine Regehr  
juxtaposes her Yukon roots  
with high fashion**

Story by Tara McCarthy

Catherine Regehr's central desire is balance in her life. Thus she has an established equilibrium between the practicality of her northern roots and the drama and prestige of her career as a fashion designer.

"I'm basically hair in a ponytail, no makeup, in my rubber boots all summer long, out hiking," she says of seasons spent in the North. "Then when I'm in Paris, I'm not all dolled up because I'm not that kind of person. I think the North influences that—I just wear black pants, a black turtleneck, and black, men's loafers. That's it."

Initially, the great outdoors seems to starkly contrast the Vancouver-based designer's haute couture collections that feature rich, luxurious fabrics with elegant structure. Celebrities like Kim Basinger, Sarah McLachlan, Angelica Huston, and Bianca Jagger have worn her gowns. And earlier this year, Regehr exhibited in both New York City and Paris.

Beyond all the glamour is that same girl who grew up in Whitehorse, at the top of Main Street, sliding down the clay cliffs on a large piece of plywood and spending weekends along the shoreline in Atlin, B.C. Regehr admits her childhood hardwired her to love the outdoors.

"My dad had mining interests, so he would take me in old jeeps up creeks with him," she

Designer Catherine Regehr hiking in Atlin, B.C.

Photo: Jennifer Houshram