

avenue

Valley of Dreams

Could our river valley be the next Granville Island?

The Yes Man

Never say no — Ron Pederson's secret to success

Raising the Bar

Upscale is the new nightlife battleground

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Inside
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Sherwood Park's Sara Canning reflects on her success on *The Vampire Diaries*

Vampire Vixen

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By Fawnda Mithrush

Photography by Bleacher + Everard

Between filming the pilot for *The Vampire Diaries* and seeing it picked up by the network, Canning was knee deep in Manitoba mud filming *Black Field*, a feature-length historical drama about two Scottish sisters and their struggles on the Canadian Prairies in the 19th century. The film was well-received at the Vancouver Film Festival last year, and is set to open in Edmonton next month.

Black Field writer and director Danishka Esterhazy cast Canning in the role of Maggie McGregor, the burdened older sister, after being impressed with the actor's character range in *Taken in Broad Daylight*.

"When Sara did the audition for Maggie, she really transformed," Esterhazy says, adding that she had planned a lot of preparation work to help Canning get into the dramatic mindset needed for *Black Field*, but the young actress already had it covered.

"Sara is an incredibly intelligent actor. She came to town so prepared and had done so much of her own research on dialect and history. She really was completely ready for the role."

