

## Goddess on health crusade

By JAMES MILLER  
Penticton Herald

**O**SOYOOS — When Mari-Ann Drevvatne arrived in Osoyoos with the moniker Nordic Warrior Goddess, it drew instant attention. That was 18 months ago and within days, everyone had heard of her.

"I had the name Nordic Warrior Goddess handed to me," said the fitness and nutrition consultant.

"I was operating a boot camp for years in Vancouver, and we'd be out there in snow, sleet, rain, whatever, with all ages and having all kinds of aches and pains. From my own experiences of overcoming adversity, I was given the name."

When the group of former clients presented her with the nickname, it stuck and she eventually embraced it, using it as the name of her business. Her card lists her as "a body transformation, body performance and personal empowerment coach."

Nordic Warrior Goddess (with decals and photos on a vehicle seen all over the town) is easier to remember than Mari-Ann Drevvatne.

"It was very sweet people saw me that way. We're all gods and

goddesses. We're all part of the divine. It's a great spiritual name. I've been through some hardship in my life and I had to have a warrior spirit to overcome hardships. With me being Scandinavian, I'm a real wilderness woman at heart who would run with the wolves."

Born near Oslo, she left Norway in 1989 to serve as a recreational Cruise Lines, travelling everywhere from Chile to Indonesia and rubbing

shoulders with the likes of Nelson Mandela and Diana Ross.

She settled in Canada in 1994, first in Maple Ridge, then in Vancouver, where she worked in fitness.

Life changed in an instant after being in a car accident. She was the passenger and a driver hit her side after failing to stop at a light.

The accident was so severe that at one point she was incapable of putting her socks on.

"I was told I'd never return to being a trainer after the accident," she said.

"I went to every therapist and specialist you could imagine. I was in chronic pain for four years with a herniated disc in my back. I could hardly walk."

She spent her recovery years studying everything imaginable.

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Mari-Ann Drevvatne



Photo submitted

Mari-Ann Drevvatne, a lifestyles coach and former bodybuilder, created instant attention in Osoyoos when she arrived there 18 months ago with the moniker Nordic Warrior Goddess.