



Marlene Dinsmore

Email: serinamar@gmail.com

Website: www.hydrogen-electric-energy.ca

As a photographer, Marlene Dinsmore of North Saanich, BC, has chronicled every island on the Pacific coast from the Canadian border in the north to the Mexican border in the south. She has enjoyed the crisp clean air of the entire Pacific coast while capturing its natural and rugged beauty in her photos. Travelling with Marlene were her husband, Dan, a captain and marine electrical engineer, and their son, Dave, who worked on the refit and cleaning of the research yacht they travelled in.

Sadly, Marlene has also experienced pain and suffering due to her travels on the yacht. As a result of breathing in exhaust fumes and exposure to heavy metals over three and a half years, Marlene, her husband, and her son were all afflicted with heavy metal poisoning. For Marlene, the lead that settled in her back and joints caused significant and chronic pain. Even now Marlene and her husband continue to receive radical chelation therapy to remove the heavy metals from their systems. "I was pretty sick," she says.

Unfortunately, Marlene's son, Dave, who didn't receive chelation therapy, succumbed to his illness. Despite being seen by seven specialists, he was never tested for heavy metals and was misdiagnosed, with his illness being attributed to a mysterious virus. Marlene recounts sadly, "His whole system just shut down at once."

Left with the sorrow of losing their son and Marlene's physical pain, Marlene and her husband decided to take action. Because they didn't want to see other

boat owners suffer as they had, the couple embarked on what turned out to be three years of research into heavy metal poisoning. Thus began the next phase in their lives—dedicating themselves entirely to the promotion of hydrogen electric energy, a safer and cleaner technology.

"...Knowing that I'm learning something, it makes you more alive..."

Owing to their enthusiasm for this form of clean energy, Marlene and her husband have developed a nonprofit hydrogen electric energy consulting organization in Victoria. "Life is sometimes like that," Marlene explains. "It turns you upside down. You need to relax and go with the flow when you get caught up in that wave."

Although Marlene knew she wanted to set up a website to further promote the use of hydrogen electric energy, she didn't have the necessary design skills. She also realized she would not be able to endure sitting in a college classroom for two or three hours at a time. When Marlene saw an ad in a Victoria newspaper for IBDE, she realized it was the perfect solution. She says, "I could come and go from the computer—I didn't have to sit. I could even lay on the bed or floor to relieve the pain while I was working."

As her final project for IBDE, Marlene was finally able to realize her dream of bringing her organization online

(www.hydrogen-electric-energy.ca). "The course gave me the chance to combine my photography, creativity, and the promotion of hydrogen electric energy." She goes on to say, "[IBDE] challenged my mind and, healthwise, it gave me freedom. Knowing that you're learning something, it makes you more alive. Every time you challenge yourself mentally, physically—it opens horizons. You can do just about anything you want."

After completing IBDE, Marlene turned to the Business Abilities program. She has now completed her business plan and is in Phase 2 of the program as she launches her new venture.

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Out of her many life challenges has grown Marlene's own philosophy for overcoming obstacles. She explains, "When you're set before a challenge, embrace it. We had major challenges. Every time I embraced a challenge I asked, 'How can I make it work for me?' It pushed me to the next level." Marlene's advice for others is rooted in this positive approach to life. She says, "Open that door and step out of the box and find out where you're going to fly next. You can do whatever you want!"