

## 2014 Visionary Award Goreham

**Nominee information**

Name (as it will appear on the award plaque if selected): Helen Goreham

Affiliation: Barrington Municipal High School, Gulf of Maine Institute (GOMI)  
Team Leader

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**Brief background on why the individual/organization is being nominated:**

Helen Goreham has been the major driving force behind all of the environmental projects at the Barrington Municipal High School for the last 10 years. In 2003 she had just discovered GOMI and was able to bring just one student to the week long summer conference. It has been uphill since then. Every year since she has had a team active in the school and they have attended all regional and international workshops.

Her team's accomplishments include: 1) Development of the, first in the Province, Restorative Environmentally Aware Landscape (REAL). The team had to convince the school and the school board to stop providing maintenance to the big traffic circle in front of the school and let it grow back in through succession. Teams have kept track of the over 200 species of plants that are regenerating in the area including Lady Slipper and Trillium woodland flowers. 2) Her teams were the force behind the Toyota School Greening project developing the plans and doing the planting. They coordinated with the school's construction program to have those students build shelters and gazebos. 3) The teams have constructed a woodland trail around the school called the Lichen Trail. An expert volunteered time to help with identification of lichen and moss species. 4) They have carried out river clean-up and water quality studies on the nearby Barrington River. 5) They are the primary force behind the school's community garden and berry patch efforts. 6) The team has lead in greening and recycling inside of the school getting other students to be more aware of recycling and energy efficiency. 7) They have held events at the local grocery stores to introduce the public to environmental issues in their local area. 8) The team has been involved in beach sweeps, bird counts and other activities at the Cape Sable Important Bird Area. 9) They have recently launched two ocean drifters as part of GOMI's part in this project. None of these activities, and more, would have happened without Helen's dedication.

Remarkably, she is a substitute teacher so her leadership of this effort and her dedication to the Green Team students is all the more outstanding. This is a passion and heart felt effort that shows what one person with vision and dedication can bring to our youth. Many, over the last ten years, have been exposed to community service and environmental awareness by Helen's efforts. She is truly deserving of award for accomplishing her vision of an environmentally aware and working team of youth seeking to improve the quality of their school and community. It is dedication far beyond the call of duty.

**Summary that will be read during the awards ceremony if nominee is selected. This text will also be used in media releases (not to exceed 2,000 characters, including spaces and punctuation):**

Helen Goreham, teacher at Barrington Municipal High School and leader of the school's Green Team is presented with this award in recognition of her influence on her many students and the evolution of a greener environment and attitude in her school and community. The projects her team has initiated include the first Restorative Environmentally Aware Landscape in the Province, planning the landscape and planting of trees on the school grounds, establishment of a woodland lichen trail, continuing commitment to the efforts of the Cape Sable Important Bird Area, and many more. She is also honored for her continuing efforts as a team leader for the Gulf of Maine Institute having had active teams every year since 2003. Over the years she has had a positive environmental influence on hundreds of youth, a number of whom have developed educational direction and career paths as a result of her efforts.

**Name and contact information of person making the nomination:**

Name & Affiliation: Daniel Earle, GOMI Maritime Coordinator

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