

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## Barbara's Story

"As a mother of young twins I wanted to make a greener impact so after attending Ribfest and seeing all the food waste & recyclables going into the garbage/landfill, I offered to start compost & recycling programs for Rotary. So in 2004 I asked the Burlington Post & High Schools to help me recruit volunteers and every year the diversion rates increased! In 2005 I initiated Grease recycling that became biodiesel or animal fertilizer. Finally in 2007 it became cool to be green and over the years other organizations asked me to how to green their events.

As a BurlingtonGreen volunteer in 2009 I lobbied for a bottled water ban and for water refilling fountains to be installed with spigots. Annually I helped organize the Clean Up events and brought students to the amazing, educational Youth Conferences run by BurlingtonGreen.

For years my passion was being a zero waste advocate/diverting waste, writing Letters to the Editor & greening my children's school but after reading Alanna Mitchell's book SEA SICK, The Global Ocean in Crisis, I had a new mission. I told Rob Stewart and Julia Barnes about her book as they were also educating people about the devastating effects of ocean acidification. If everything on land dies, the ocean thrives but if everything in the ocean dies, so does everything on land! We need a healthy ocean to survive so I urge you to read Alanna's book and watch Julia's documentary film, Sea of Life and make the ocean your eco passion too so we can all do our part to leave a sustainable planet for our children."

- Barbara



**BurlingtonGreen**

Together we make a difference