

print

Jim Bohlen, 1926 – 2010

Blogpost by **cskinner** - July 22, 2010 at 2:18 PM

Dear friends,

It is with great sadness that I pass along the news that Jim Bohlen, one of the original Greenpeace founders, has died at the age of 84 from Parkinson's disease.

A man of deep principle and conviction, Jim was with Greenpeace from the very beginning, long before it evolved into the global organization we know today, even before it was called Greenpeace.

In 1969, Jim formed the Don't Make a Wave Committee alongside friends Paul Cote and Irving and Dorothy Stowe. The goal (if not the means to get there) was simple: put an end to U.S. nuclear testing on Amchitka Island, off the coast of Alaska. It was Jim's wife Marie who first came up with the idea of sailing a ship to Amchitka Island to bear witness to the tests. That voyage, with Jim on board, was a resounding success and paved the way for nearly 40 years and counting of Greenpeace direct action.

Jim embodied the core Greenpeace values in everything he did. He led by example and sought to inspire change with his trademark calm, collected and peaceful charisma. The Globe and Mail said it best: "He provided a mature, rational and careful perspective to a young, radical organization."

From his peaceful resistance to the Vietnam War, to the local and organic farming community he began with Marie, and his activism in greening politics, Jim was a man who seized opportunities to make the world a greener and more peaceful place to be.

Jim's legacy is forever embedded in the foundations of the global Greenpeace movement, and we pay tribute to the visionary leadership he and the other founders shared with the world when they set sail nearly 40 years ago. Without people like Jim Bohlen, the environmental movement would not be where it is today.

Thanks Jim.

Greenpeace Canada
Executive Director
Bruce Cox