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The Founders of Greenpeace

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There's an old joke that in any bar in Vancouver Canada you can sit down next to someone who founded Greenpeace. In fact, there was no single founder, and the name, idea, spirit, tactics, and internationalism of the organisation all can be said to have separate lineages. Here's a few facts.

Crew of the Phyllis Cormack, first Greenpeace trip to Amchitka Island to protest nuclear weapons testing.

In 1970, the **Don't Make A Wave Committee** was established; its sole objective was to stop a second nuclear weapons test at Amchitka Island in the Aleutians.

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The committee's founders and first members included:

- **Paul Cote**, a law student at the University of British Columbia
- **Jim Bohlen**, a former deep-sea diver and radar operator in the US Navy
- **Irving Stowe**, a Quaker and Yale-educated lawyer
- **Patrick Moore**, ecology student at the University of British Columbia
- **Bill Darnell**, a social worker

Darnell came up with the dynamic combination of words to bind together the group's concern for the planet and opposition to nuclear arms. In the words of Bob Hunter, "Somebody flashed two fingers as we were leaving the church basement and said "Peace!" Bill said "Let's make it a Green Peace. And we all went Ommmmmmmm." Jim Bohlen's son Paul, having trouble making the two words fit on a button, linked them together into the committee's new name: **Greenpeace**.

Marie Bohlen was the first to suggest taking a ship up to Amchitka to oppose the US plans. The group organised a boat, the *Phyllis Cormack*, and set sail to Amchitka to "bear witness" (a Quaker tradition of silent protest) to the nuclear test. On board were:

- **Captain John Cormack**, the boat's owner
- **Jim Bohlen**, Greenpeace
- **Bill Darnell**, Greenpeace
- **Patrick Moore**, Greenpeace
- **Dr Lyle Thurston**, medical practitioner
- **Dave Birmingham**, engineer
- **Terry Simmons**, cultural geographer
- **Richard Fineberg**, political science teacher
- **Robert Hunter**, journalist
- **Ben Metcalfe**, journalist
- **Bob Cummings**, journalist
- **Bob Keziere**, photographer

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For a great read about Greenpeace's history, pick up **Rex Weyler's** book, "Greenpeace -- How a Group of Ecologists, Journalists, and Visionaries Changed the World."

GREENPEACE exists because this fragile Earth deserves a voice.

Please help. Join us now!