



MV TCV underway
photo courtesy
BC Conference United
Church Website



**TCV with a
"bone in her teeth"**
photo courtesy
BC Conference United
Church Website



TCV at dock 1993
photo courtesy of
Prince Rupert Library

3. *Thomas Crosby V* - one of the "Bookboats"

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A Brief History of Mission Boats on the Northwest Coast.

Mission Boats are ships that exist all over the world, with the main purpose of spreading the word of God to various isolated communities. Mission Boats travel to all sorts of locations, with various goals in mind. Mission Boats have quite a history along the Northwest coast of BC, with the *Thomas Crosby* being the main one. The *Thomas Crosby V* is a traditional ministry that began with a canoe in 1874 when Rev. Thomas Crosby, a Methodist missionary, worked out of Port Simpson, to as far south as Victoria. There were 5 *Thomas Crosby's* built, with the first one being built in 1912, the second in 1920, the third in 1923, the fourth in 1938, and the fifth in 1967 in New Westminster.

The *Thomas Crosby V* was a 80 foot vessel, had a 21 foot beam, and a 10 foot draught. The crew was made up of seven, and was licensed to carry 40 passengers, and sleep 25. The *Thomas Crosby V* was capable of year round sailing and was fully equipped with radar, depth sounder, Citizen Band radio, chart room, intercom throughout, complete alarm system, radio, waterlight compartments, two inflatable rafts, one diesel inboard and one Canova inflatable boat powered by an outboard engine. The first steel vessel used for mission work and built by the church at Star Ship Yards in 1967 after designs by G. Talbot. It was put into service in 1967 out of Prince Rupert. Since 1977 it has been

under the command of missionary-skipper Oliver Howard and operated out of Prince Rupert. In 1990 The United Church decided that due to changing times, and better faster ways of serving isolated people it would be sold. The ship was then sold to a Cayman Island based company, Kennford Limited. They stated that the ship was going to be used to uphold the principles of living and acting for the good of others.

- author unknown

More photos and history of the BC coast mission boats can be found on this [British Columbia Conference United Church webpage](#).

A list of ships of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Churches of British Columbia can be found on this [Prince Rupert Library page](#).