

# Railway Coastal Museum History e-Bulletin: Volume XI

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## The REO Speed Wagon: 80 years old and still taking it on the run.

Most visitors to the Railway Coastal Museum will probably remember the grey pickup truck, parked on the platform exhibit by the mail car. The truck is a 1927 REO Speed Wagon, and even at the ripe old age of 80 years, it is still in working condition.

The REO Speed Wagon was designed by the REO Motor Car Company (named for its founder, Ransom Eli Olds, also the founder of Oldsmobile) as a working vehicle for delivery drivers and farmers, and was available with several different bodies, including a grain box, a rack for hauling livestock, and a 'Carryall' model for passengers. Speed Wagons were also used as fire trucks and police wagons.

The Speed Wagon in the Railway Coastal Museum can be traced back to October 14, 1927. On that day, Francis and Bert Dillon bought the truck from S. P. Cullen, Manufacturers' and Commission Agent, for the price of \$2600, plus \$21.25 for licensing fees.

The Dillons were merchants operating in Mobile, and they had seen the truck while on a trip to Boston. The Speed Wagon was a part of their business for the next 45 years. In 1972, the truck was sold to Richard Hibbs, the owner of Household Movers and Shippers.

Mr. Hibbs dedicated a lot of time and energy to the truck's restoration. Finding parts was a difficult task, but Mr. Hibbs was persistent, and eventually the REO Speed Wagon was restored. Not only did it look great, painted in the

Household Movers  
& Shippers  
company colours of  
blue and white, but  
the Speed Wagon  
was actually in  
running condition.



In 2003, Mr. Hibbs generously donated the REO Speed Wagon to the Railway Coastal Museum, and the truck became a part of the permanent platform exhibit.

The REO Speed Wagon is an interesting part of the Railway Coastal Museum's exhibits. It's not hard to imagine the Speed Wagon in the railway yard in the 1930's or 1940's, being loaded with goods that have just arrived on the train and setting out to carry the load back to Mobile.

The Railway Coastal Museum is just the third owner of this show quality vehicle, and thanks to the hard work and generosity of Mr. Hibbs, this workhorse from the heyday of the Newfoundland Railway will be preserved.



1927 REO SPEED WAGON  
owned by HOUSEHOLD MOVERS & SHIPPERS LIMITED

**Do You Have an Interesting Story  
About the Newfoundland Railway?  
We'd Love to Hear it!**

**Send Your Story to the Railway  
Coastal Museum!**

**We Also Appreciate any Feedback  
or Questions You May Have.**

**Contact Us!**

**[info@railwaycoastalmuseum.ca](mailto:info@railwaycoastalmuseum.ca)**

**Don't forget - The Railway Coastal  
Museum is a great place to hold  
your events, whether it's a Little  
Toot Birthday party or a reception.**

**Contact Erin at:**

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