

Railway Coastal Museum e-Bulletin

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Keith Collier

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Opening of the RCM Train Park

On June 12, 2009, the Railway Coastal Museum will celebrate the official opening of its train park. This park has been a work in progress for several years, but with the final landscaping and detailing, the transformation from parking lot to static train display is complete.

The train park consists of three train cars from the railway system in Newfoundland. These are Engine #906, which is a model NF110 diesel electric built by General Motors Diesel, mail car #1805, and a coach car. The engine and mail car were moved to the Railway Coastal Museum in 2006 from Bowring Park, and the coach car was donated by the City of St. John's in 2004 (it was formerly the St. John's Visitor Information Centre on Harbour Drive). A work speeder completes the track displays.

In addition, the Mile 0 Pavilion of the Trans Canada Trail has been moved from its former location on Southside Road to the train park. Since the beginning of the Trans Canada Trail is located directly behind the train park, this is a natural location for the pavilion, and it is also much more visible to passers-by. Benches are placed in the park for the comfort of visitors, and story boards will be in place for interpretation.



Our Train Park under construction. The mail car and coach car have not yet been painted, and the engine has not even been placed on its trucks. The landscaping had also not begun, and the finished park looks very different from this work in progress. You'll have to come by Water Street to see what it looks like now!

While only a small piece of the former railway yard, the train park and the Railway Coastal Museum are the last remnants of the railway system that dominated the west end of Water Street for almost 100 years. While the City of St. John's continues to grow and develop, this park will stand as a reminder to all who pass by that the railway and coastal boat services, the great industry that helped to shape Newfoundland and Labrador, were once based right here.



The Railway Yard in St. John's early in the Canadian National Era, before the Pitts Memorial Drive overpass was built. The Railway Station and machine shop building (upper right) are clearly visible and are still in existence today, but the tracks and most other buildings are long gone. The new RCM Train Park is located approximately where the building on the centre left is, with the row of windows along the top.

Do you have a story about the Newfoundland Railway?

We'd love to hear it!

We appreciate any comments, questions, or feedback you may have.

kcollier@railwaycoastalmuseum.ca

(709) 724-5929 or toll-free 1-866-600-7245

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