

## Changes in St-Charles-Borromée



Photo Source:  
st-charles-borromee.org

**T**owns have traditions and that includes choosing the kinds of pipe for new water mains. After a long history of cast iron and copper, St-Charles-Borromée, a community close to the city of Joliette, has made a change to using IPEX PVC products. The project, installing water mains for a new subdivision, included three IPEX products: **Fusible™ PVC (FPVC)**, **PVCO Bionax®** and **Blue904®**.

Part of the project required running a water main through a protected natural area. This challenge was met by using Fusible PVC (FPVC) and directional drilling. Using a pit at either side, it was possible to draw 450 meters of fused PVC DR18 pipe beneath the natural area without disturbance. During the project, many people came to watch this innovative process at work.

Copper pipe is an expensive product, heavy, and often wasteful. Its prescribed lengths of



Fusible PVC DR 18 6" pipe was installed beneath the natural area.

**BLUE904®**



Blue904 is a lightweight and flexible PEX water service tubing.

**BIONAX®**



Bionax's light weight is easy for crews to handle on site.



66 feet need to be cut to connect potable water to homes, and often unusable pieces remain. To connect 25 homes in St-Charles-Borromée to a potable water main, 3/4" IPEX Blue904® PEX Municipal Water Service Tubing was used instead of copper. Blue904® is available in several diameters (3/4 to 2 inches) and all connect to standard compression brass fittings. Because it is flexible and comes in rolls of either 100 or 300 feet, it is easy to use with little waste. Each coil has footage markings to assist during installation and is identified with product name, size, certifications and manufacturing date. Also Blue904® has no scrap value, so it is safe to leave on site when crews are absent.



PVCO Bionax® was chosen for the water mains instead of standard IPEX PVC pipe for several reasons. It is stronger and nearly 30% lighter, so it was easy for crews to handle on site. Its inside diameter is larger offering larger capacity (10%), and it is easy to drill and cut without concerns for cracking; the recyclable cap installed at the fabrication plant, keeps the pipe clean. Price was a consideration, too, and since all of these benefits were available at the same price as regular PVC DR18, PVCO Bionax® was an obvious choice.

With a successful and timely installation completed, IPEX looks forward to helping St-Charles-Borromée with future water main projects.

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