

## Large Diameter Bionax® meets La Belle Province



Road 104, outside the city of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, PQ, is the first location in the province of Quebec to install large diameter (14") Bionax® pipe. But Bionax was only part of the seven kilometer story.

The project along Road 104 was designed to supply drinking water to a mobile home park seven kilometers from St-Jean-sur-Richelieu. Michel Nadeau, Engineer and Technical Representative for IPEX describes the project, "The park has been there a long time, but they were having a few water issues. The solution to their problem was to be connected to the City of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu's water system. Originally, the owners of the park wanted the project to be done with polyethylene pipe, which is what is used inside the park, but the city was thinking of the future." Using larger diameter IPEX Fusible™ gave the city

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**Michel Nadeau**  
Engineer and Technical Representative,  
IPEX Inc.

the option for expansion over time with new housing developments along Road 104. "The park owners only needed a 6" service for their park, but the city wanted to install 12". Finally, it was agreed that the park owners would pay for the 6" service, and the city would pay for the difference to upgrade to 12".

## New 14", 16" & 18" PVCO Pressure Pipe

- ✓ 40% Lighter than Conventional PVC
- ✓ 3 Times Tougher than PVC
- ✓ Easier to Install and Time Saving
- ✓ Corrosion Resistant



Mélanie Gagnon, Project Manager with MSA Technologies Inc., explained some of the challenges of the project. "The project was planned to start in April, but the start was delayed until mid-July. The ability to work on winter projects is limited. Lane closings affect snow removal. Aggregates freeze, and cold weather can make working conditions difficult. We doubled up



on equipment and teams in order to finish early and avoid winter problems."

"Another challenge of the job," said Nadeau, "was having to cross three or

four roads at 90 degree angles. We connected to the 12" IPEX Fusible with smaller pipes of 6" PVC for about 100 to 150 metres of road connects. Along the seven kilometer stretch the project, hydrants were also connected at about 150-metre intervals."

A lot of coordination goes into a project this size, including working with MTQ (Ministère des Transports du Québec) to ensure security of drivers and workers on such a busy road. The MTQ put the focus on safety and projecting the job site throughout construction.

"The engineer on the project designed a section for large diameter (16") Bionax pipe," said Nadeau. "It was the first time it was used in Quebec, and it ran in an

open cut for a length of 100 metres at an early stage of the job. The engineer chose it because he needed a product that was lighter to work with and stronger than standard PVC in that location. In the future, we are hoping that Bionax will be included in the specs for other projects."

Road 104 is a busy route, connecting to Highway 30 heading to Montreal. "The road is very busy twice a day for commuters driving the road from St-Jean-sur-Richelieu to Montreal," said Nadeau. "The city didn't want to do the job as an open cut because of the traffic issues that would be involved in that size of excavation. That's why they chose the option of IPEX Fusible," said Nadeau. "The drilling was done by Foraction inc. They have done a lot of fusible pipe for us." Daniel Dichiaro, Vice-President of Foraction inc., adds, "In the last four or five years, we have installed approximately 50,000 metres of IPEX Fusible. The St. Jean job wasn't a difficult one. There was no river crossing or difficult conditions. It was a perfect project to work with these methods and this pipe."

Dichiaro concludes, "It's a pleasure to work with all the people at IPEX. Whenever we need some help, we just have to call. We like to work with suppliers like IPEX. When we have a problem, the people at IPEX have always been a part of the solution. It's important to work with partners like that."