A site at 1350 Boulevard Cremazie East was selected by the Montreal School Board for a parking lot expansion. The storm water system was designed to capture runoff from the parking lot and roof. Although the city of Montreal and the Montreal School Board preferred low impact development construction solutions, the options for the new storm water system were limited because the soils were not well suited for an infiltration-type system.

The school board had considered the use of plastic storm water chambers as a cost-saving measure, but then began looking for more expensive traditional types of storm water management systems. Its options became more constrained because the city of Montreal was served with a combined sanitary/storm water system in that area. Therefore, a non-infiltrating type of storm water system was required. Any backflow from the combined system had to be prevented from leaching into the ground.

The problem was solved after consultation with Soleno of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, just outside Montreal. Soleno is Canada’s largest manufacturer of high-density polyethylene pipe and eastern Canada’s exclusive distributor of HydroLogic Solutions’ StormChamber and SedimenTrap. Soleno was able to make the school board aware that plastic storm water chambers are not restricted to use for infiltration purposes. The company designed a StormChamber system lined with an impermeable geomembrane that would prevent backflows from leaching into the ground. The system solved the school board’s problem and made it possible to achieve the cost savings of a plastic storm water system.

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