



Quebec City Purchases three Thompson Diesel-Driven Emergency Pumps and uses them during major fire at Armoury.

A city of nearly 500,000 and treasure of world heritage, Quebec City needed to carry out major repairs to one of its primary water mains. The municipality launched a call for tenders to supply three diesel pumps for stand-by service. Each pump had to have a capacity of 3200 GPM to a height of 175 feet.

Diesel pumps were chosen because the reservoir access hatches for pumping measured only 3 sq. ft., their small size making them inappropriate for submersible pumps. In addition, no incoming electrical line was powerful enough to supply 200 HP electric motors, making the choice of diesel motors all the more compelling.

Repairs to the mains were scheduled in phases so as not to compromise celebrations surrounding the 400th anniversary of Quebec City's founding set to take place throughout 2008. Since the pumps could not remain on-site all summer long, they had to be installed on trailers. Work was to run from early March through late May and then again starting in late September to leave the Plains of Abraham available for the 400th anniversary events and a concert by international star Céline Dion in August.

The National Battlefields Commission (NBC) was able to uphold the main principles of landscape architecture as they were developed in 1909 by the park's architect, Frédéric Todd. In light of the fact that pumping would take place at a historic site, the advantages of the ENVIROPRIME® system were a prerequisite in selecting the pumps, which had to be self-priming and environmentally friendly.

The contract was awarded to ITT Water & Wastewater, which proposed three trailer-mounted, self-priming Thompson model 12JSCG-DJDST-81H-M pumps each with a 10-inch suction intake, 6-inch discharge



Trailer-mounted, self-priming Thompson model 12JSCG-DJDST-81H-M pump.

and 275 HP 1800 RPM motor. The pumps were delivered on February 28, 2008.

The main purpose for purchasing the three pumps was to supply water to the upper city solely in the event of an incident such as a fire or damage to intake lines during the work; it was therefore expected that they would never be used.

April 4, 2008: Major Fire at the Armoury

The Quebec City Armoury, in Place Georges V, dates back to 1884 when architect Eugène-Étienne Taché drew up the building plans alternately with those for the Quebec National Assembly and the old Court House. Construction went on from 1884 until 1887, the year it was inaugurated by Canada's Governor General, Lord Stanley.

In 1998, the armoury was renamed in honour of the Voltigeurs de Québec, an infantry unit formed in 1862 - the oldest French Canadian rifle regiment still in existence.

However, during the night of April 4, 2008, to everyone's great shock and devastation, a fire ravaged the armoury. Flames broke out shortly after 9:30 p.m. that evening in the building, located in the heart of the old city. The blaze ravaged almost the entire structure, including the roof, which soon collapsed. No one was injured in the disaster, whose cause remains unknown.

Except for part of the facade the building was totally destroyed, but thanks to the exemplary work of the fire-fighters, the greater part of the artefacts, flags and other museum documents were saved and will be restored. The 345 soldiers were relocated, and negotiations are under way to launch a reconstruction.

The Thompson emergency pumps were put to good use when the fire broke out and played an essential role in controlling it. They were used to maintain sufficient pressure and keep up with the high water demands of the firefighting equipment. Some 100 firefighters were mobilized to battle the flames, which it took them 12 hours to extinguish. The blaze spread quickly, fed by the wood making up the building's interior.

Thanks to the foresight of the Quebec City authorities in arranging for the water main repairs, it was possible to avoid a major disaster had the fire spread to other nearby buildings.

With their call for tenders to purchase the three pumps, they demonstrated proper prudence by anticipating a potential event in 1998 that had not occurred in more than a century in the form of a fire affecting a building classified as a historic monument and located in a tourism area near hotels, restaurants and the Parliament. All that was left by early morning on Saturday, April 5, was smoking ruins, but the pumps had done their duty.

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