

# DIALOGUE for Engineers and Geoscientists

[Home](#)

June 2005

**Issues**

[2006](#)

[2005](#)

[2004](#)

[2003](#)

## ■ Engineering for Charity - The Tetra Society

by Wally Jacobs, P. Eng.

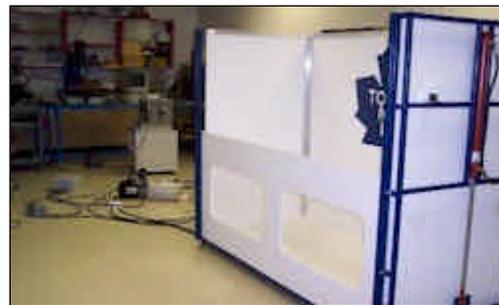
**Tools**  
[Bookmark](#)  
[Print](#)  
[Subscriptions](#)

**Dialogue**  
[Advertisers](#)  
[Advertising](#)  
[Credits](#)  
[Contacts](#)



The Tetra Society, under the co-ordination of Dr. Leonard Lye, P.Eng., Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Memorial University of Newfoundland needs your help to assist disabled persons in this province participate in all aspects of life, including work, play, hobbies, family and community.

Tetra is an award winning, innovative, national, charitable, not-for-profit organization made up of volunteer engineers, health professionals and



Bed under construction

others who design and build assistive devices that are not available commercially for persons with disabilities. The society was founded by Mr. Sam Sullivan, O.C., who became a quadriplegic, following a skiing accident in British Columbia. Sam's idea came from experiences that he had following his accident with regard to physical accessibility and the lack of suitable daily living aids. He set out to solve his own unique set of problems, which resulted in his establishing the Tetra Society of North America. Nationally, there are over 1,000 volunteers who have completed more than 3,000 projects. Sam was recognized for his work with Tetra by being named to the Order of Canada in 2005.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the need for this service is great and in 1996 Dr. Lye recognized this need and started the local chapter of Tetra. Since then, more than 30 projects



Mother admiring her son's new bed

The Plan that over 48,000 Engineers and Geoscientists have trusted to protect their families just got even better



**Manulife Financial**



## ■ Articles

[President's Report](#)

[Dr. Jack Clark, P. Eng. Receives Gold Medal /](#)

[100 Work Opportunities Sought for MUN Co-op Program this Summer](#)

[PEG Scholarship Winner Announced](#)

[Appointments to PEG Regulatory Committee](#)

[New PEG Members](#)

[In Memoriam](#)

[Members in the News](#)

have been completed by more than 40 volunteers. These projects have helped individuals cope with many daily challenges brought about by their physical disabilities. The most recent project, which was featured in *The Telegram* of May 16, 2005, involved a hydraulically controlled bed for a boy with global developmental delay (see above photos).

The work of Tetra is mostly carried out by volunteers, except when an engineering work term student is employed to assist on projects. These students are paid a very basic honorarium; however, the experience that they receive is invaluable. There are other associated costs to completing projects which include materials, equipment, etc. In the past, these projects have been undertaken on a shoestring budget and valuable time has been spent acquiring the necessary funds to complete the projects. As more and more requests for assistance are received, adequate funding will make it possible to complete projects in a timely manner and maybe broaden our scope to assist more individuals. Your donation is tax deductible and will assist local individuals with physical disabilities to live a more enjoyable life.

Please send donations to:  
Tetra Society of North America, Newfoundland Chapter  
c/o Dr. Leonard M. Lye, P. Eng., Coordinator Faculty of  
Engineering and Applied Science  
Memorial University of Newfoundland St. John's, NL,  
A1B 3X5

Chapter web site: <http://tetra.engr.mun.ca>

National web site: <http://www.tetrasociety.org>

© Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and  
Labrador

[Engineering for Charity  
Tetra Society](#)

[PEG Sponsors Events  
Engineer and Geoscientist  
Graduates](#)

[CCPE Creates the  
International Institute  
Degree Database \(IIC\)](#)

[Engineering, A Long Term  
Approach to Infrastructure](#)

[Invitation to a Free Online  
Forum on Canada's Infrastructure  
Space](#)

[Technology Provides  
Opportunities for PEG  
Members](#)

[Engineers & Climate  
Change: What You Need to  
Know](#)

[Structural Safety Issues  
Buildings Utilizing Steel  
Seam Roofs](#)

---

## ■ Article Feedback



Comments...

---