Story Behind Innovation

THE 2019 TETRANATION CONTEST wrapped up on October 11th with participation coming from chapters across the country. Your innovations and creativity truly encourage us to re-imagine what is possible! One of the highlights was a project from the Regina chapter. Their BBQ power lid, built by volunteer George Bliss was awarded the title of “The Most Liked Video”!

George has been volunteering with Tetra Society of North America for two years and finds his interests and skills resonate with Tetra’s mandate, to empower and inspire people with disability to overcome physical barriers through innovations. George says, “I like to tinker and help others. Tetra combines the two.”

Simple, yet uneasy
His BBQ power lid project was initially designed for a quadriplegic client who loves barbeque. It enables users to open the BBQ lid with minimal effort. The lid is controlled by a three-way switch with a rechargeable battery that can last for a season. “Simply release the button when the lid is where you want it.”

George explains, “It was a bit of trial and error over a period of time.” One of the difficulties that he faced during the design process was distance. The client lives 150 miles north of Regina, far from George’s workshop. That posed a challenge for measuring, cutting and testing, though the distance did not stop him. He managed to refine his design so that the lid is easy to use and maintain while also being aesthetically pleasing.

Hard work certainly pays off. George is proud to see that the client is satisfied with his device and able to satisfy his love for barbeque.

Once again, thank you for all of the support.

Additionally, congratulations to other winning chapters: Hamilton-Halton for raising the most donations with $295 raised. Vancouver chapter earned the title for Most Creative Device.

To learn more about these devices and many others please visit tetrasociety.org or email info@TetraSociety.org.
TETRA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA has received funding from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to build an assistive technology device called netClé (pronounced net-clay) for people with physical disabilities. The affordable and customizable device provides simple access for people with disabilities to connect with the digital world. A pilot project will be launched in early 2020 for 100 participants to receive a free device and test use it to control their computer keyboard and mouse. Each pilot community and its participants will work directly with an occupational therapist and technical support to first set up the device at a home or work computer. In two subsequent sessions, the pilot team will work with participants to address any technical challenges and generate feedback about usability.

"Although there are similar products out there, netClé is intended to be much more affordable," said Tetra’s Director of Operations, David Fong. "We also believe this product can be equally if not more effective. While we are starting with testing netClé to control a keyboard and mouse, it is a programmable device, so in the longer-term there will be more versatility in how a person with limited mobility can better control their digital environments. That’s something we will explore once we get feedback from the pilot."

The pilot will take place in four communities across Canada: Vancouver, BC, Edmonton, AB, Ottawa, ON and Fredericton, NB with a national roll-out in late 2020 or early 2021.

Interested in testing out netClé? Sign-up at www.tetrasociety.org/solutions/netcle.php to get the latest news and updates about the pilots and the product roll-out.

Innovation & Creativity at TetraNation 2019

TETRANATION VOLUNTEERS

Calgary
• iPad holder – Doug Brown
• Phone holder – Doug Brown

Kelowna
• Ruth’s adjustable table – Les Ebl, Cathy Grover

Regina
• Dave’s BBQ lid – George Bliss

Vancouver
• Guitar table – Chris Bhatla
• Guitar neck – Chris Bhatla

Ottawa
• Parallel bar – Jim Larcoque, Russ Jones
• Children desk – John Mckinlaykey, Mike Perry

Hamilton-Halton
• BBQ cover modification – Sylvia Baliko
• Transom Ramp – Gus Baliko
• Mobility stairs – Jim Ronnie, Sylvia Baliko
• Wheel stop – Jim Ronnie
• Drinking tube – Mike McNally

Toronto
• Sling holder – Wayne Smith

Prince George
• Ball holder – Bob Wayte

Windsor
• Power chair – Dave Harshaw, Nestor Musso
• Kitchen Island – Donna Nelson, Bill Frazier
• Coil cupholder – Mike Hark
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TETRA is a registered charity that enables people with disabilities to overcome barriers in the physical landscape. We recruit technically skilled and compassionate volunteers who work one-on-one with individuals requiring custom engineering solutions. The completed gizmos empower people with disabilities to live independent and active lives.

**TETRA Chapters**

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**TETRA Projects**

- Agape Foundation of London
- Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation
- Brampton and Caledon Community Foundation
- Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund
- Government of Canada
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. P.A. Woodward’s Foundation
- Servus Credit Union
- Sifton Family Foundation
- St. Albert Community Foundation
- The Community Foundation of Mississauga
- The Province of British Columbia

**TETRA Thanks!**

- George has been volunteering with TETRA for two years and finds his interests and creativity truly encourage us to reimagine the BBQ lid with minimal effort. The BBQ lid is controlled by a three-way switch that combines the two.
- His BBQ power lid project was initially posed a challenge for measuring, distance did not stop him. He managed to distance did not stop him. He managed to refine his design so that the lid is easy to use and maintain while also being aesthetically pleasing.
- The bbq lid was DESIGNED AND built by Regina.
- Voted “Most Liked Video” the bbq lid is controlled by a three-way switch that combines the two.

**TETRA Society of North America**

Dedicated to assisting people with disabilities to achieve an independent and fulfilling life, one assistive device at a time.

**Have an idea for a project? Want to know what’s possible? Want to overcome a barrier?**

Here’s how to reach us...

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E: info@tetrasociety.org
www.TetraSociety.org

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