

gizmo

THE TETRA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA: CUSTOM ASSISTIVE DEVICES

TETRA NATION

2019 awards recognize local Tetra volunteers. Visit tetraNation.org to view all submissions!

PHOTO: Voted "Most Liked Video" the bbq power lid was DESIGNED AND built by REGINA volunteer George Bliss



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.

Innovation & Creativity at TetraNation 2019



**TETRA
NATION**

Thank you for your participation!



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 Wayne

Windsor

- Power chair – Dave Harshaw, Nestor Musso
- Kitchen Island – Donna Nelson, Bill Frazier
- Coil cupholder – Mike Hark

netClé is Coming!

We are very excited to introduce your new Regional Coordinators

Nichole Yamchuk
Tetra Regional Coordinator
Prairie Provinces (AB, SK, MB)



Nichole brings more than 10 years of experience in both fundraising and programs and was the recipient of the “Volunteer of the Year” award with Kids Help Phone in 2014. She is excited to begin building Tetra communities, inspiring change to make a positive impact throughout the prairie provinces.

Sylvia Baliko
Tetra Regional Coordinator
Eastern Canada (ON, QC)

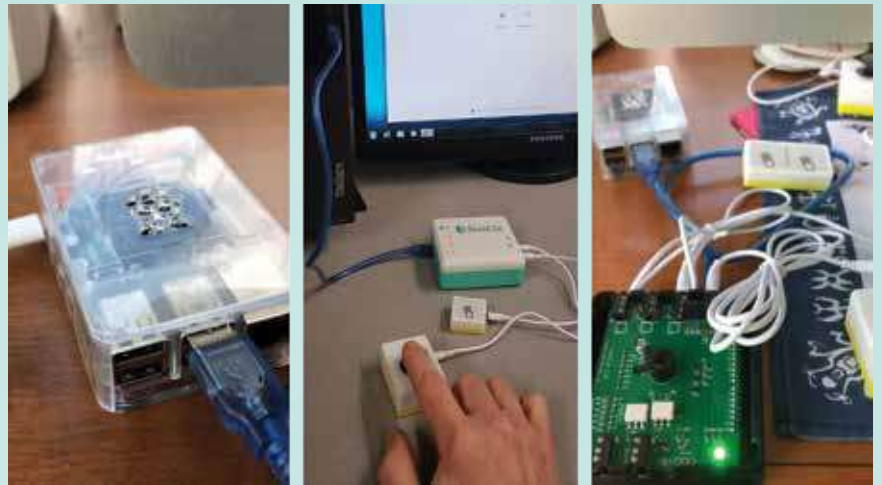


Before taking on the Regional Coordinator role, Sylvia was previously the chapter coordinator for Tetra Hamilton-Halton since 2001, including very successfully fundraising for Tetra in Ontario over the past five years. She is excited about the new challenges the regional coordinator role will bring!

Andrew Jantzen
Tetra Regional Coordinator
Atlantic (NS, NB, PE, NL)



With a background as a researcher and technologist, Andrew is committed to creative problem solving to build a better world. He brings to Tetra not only his technical expertise but also his successes in community engagement and policy development for accessibility in Nova Scotia.



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.

INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM & ACCESS

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 *Thanks!*

- 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

Prairie Provinces Coordinator

Nichole Yamchuk
Nyamchuk@tetrasociety.org
587-710-6473

Abbotsford/Mission, BC
Contact head office
info@tetrasociety.org
1-877-688-8762

Armstrong, BC
Gary Arbuckle
ArmstrongBC@Tetrasociety.org
250-308-8465

Cranbrook/ East Kootenay, BC
Contact head office
info@tetrasociety.org
1-877-688-8762

Creston, BC
Andre Hebert
CrestonBC@Tetrasociety.org
250-866-5518

Fort St. John, BC
Perry Leonfellner
FortStJohnBC@Tetrasociety.org
250-264-2192

Kamloops, BC
Contact head office
info@tetrasociety.org
1-877-688-8762

Kelowna, BC
Cathy Grover
KelownaBC@Tetrasociety.org
250-863-0650

Nanaimo, BC
Contact head office
info@tetrasociety.org
1-877-688-8762

Prince George, BC
Nadine Lindstrom
PrinceGeorgeBC@Tetrasociety.org
250-562-3334

Salt Spring Island, BC
Derek Emmerson
SaltSpringBC@Tetrasociety.org
250-537-9351

Surrey/Langley/Delta
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org
604-688-6464 ext: 117

Trail/Castlegar, BC
Contact head office
info@tetrasociety.org
1-877-688-8762

Vancouver, BC
Eric Molendyk
604-688-6464 Ext. 117
eric@tetrasociety.org

Vernon, BC
Randy Schellenberg
VernonBC@Tetrasociety.org
250-549-2320

Eastern Region Coordinator

Sylvia Baliko
SBaliko@Tetrasociety.org
289-208-2315

Victoria, BC
Chris Marks
VictoriaBC@Tetrasociety.org
250-889-1590

Calgary, AB
Tom Parks
tetralc@yaho.com
403-281-7641

Edmonton, AB
Nichole Yamchuk
Nyamchuk@tetrasociety.org
587-710-6473

Lethbridge, AB
Annae Jones
LethbridgeAB@Tetrasociety.org
403-370-3057

Medicine Hat, AB
Nichole Yamchuk
Nyamchuk@tetrasociety.org
587-710-6473

Red Deer, AB
Priscilla Kroetsch
RedDeerAB@Tetrasociety.org
403-877-9918

Regina, SK
Terri Sleeva
ReginaSK@Tetrasociety.org
306-545-7378

Saskatoon, SK
Nichole Yamchuk
Nyamchuk@tetrasociety.org
587-710-6473

Winnipeg, MB
Nichole Yamchuk
Nyamchuk@tetrasociety.org
587-710-6473

Guelph, ON
Nicola Billings
GuelphON@Tetrasociety.org
519-993-3823

Hamilton-Halton, ON
Sylvia Baliko
SBaliko@Tetrasociety.org
289.208.2315

Kingston, ON
Nicole Cromwell
KingstonON@Tetrasociety.org
613-547-4242

London, ON
Hui Violet Tan
LondonON@Tetrasociety.org
519-690-1133

Atlantic Region Coordinator

Andrew Jantzen
ajantzen@tetrasociety.org
902-401-3564

Ottawa, ON
Jon Moore
moore@tetrasociety.org
613-857-4886

Peel Region, ON
Scott Capper
PeelRegionON@Tetrasociety.org
647-761-9734

Metro Toronto, ON
Wayne Smith
MetroTorontoON@Tetrasociety.org
416-407-7009

York Region, ON
Kells
YorkRegionON@Tetrasociety.org
647-618-1530

Trenton, ON
Sylvia Baliko
SBaliko@Tetrasociety.org
289-208-2315

Windsor, ON
David Harshaw
WindsorON@Tetrasociety.org
519-818-4187

Montréal, QC
Sylvia Baliko
SBaliko@Tetrasociety.org
289-208-2315

Fredericton, NB
Sandi Ware
FrederictonNB@Tetrasociety.org
506-471-0937

Halifax, NS
Andrew Jantzen
ajantzen@tetrasociety.org
902-401-3564

St. John's, NL
Dr. Leonard Lye
StJohnsNL@Tetrasociety.org
709-753-0733

Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Sam Landsberger
slandsb@exchange.calstatela.edu
1-877-688-8762

Salt Lake City, UT
Kent Remund
kremund@gmail.com
801-448-6107

Columbus, OH
Russ Weir
weir.russ.linda@att.net
1-877-688-8762

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...

T: 604-688-6464 / 1-877-688-8762 (toll-free)
F: 604-688-6463
E: info@tetrasociety.org
www.TetraSociety.org

Tetra Society of North America Suite 318 - 425 Carrall Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 6E3



Tetra Society
of North America