

gizmo

THE TETRA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA: CUSTOM ASSISTIVE DEVICES



IN MEMORIAM: HARRY HARDY

On May 21st, 2020, Tetra Society of North America was greatly saddened to learn of the passing of long-time volunteer Harry Hardy, at the age of 97, just shy of his 98th birthday.

PHOTO: Harry Hardy (right) poses with Tetra Society founder Sam Sullivan (left) while receiving his Tetra Society Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010

Harry was one of the original Tetra volunteers, getting involved in 1994.

THROUGH THE YEARS, Harry Hardy completed 367 Tetra projects and consulted on 200 more. He established himself as a mentor to young volunteers and was always willing to lend assistance to anyone in need. His workshop was a special place where devices were built that changed the lives of so many Tetra clients.

He also served in the Canadian Airforce during World War II, flying 96 missions in a Typhoon fighter-bomber. He raised birds in his Burnaby aviary and worked

as an engineer for many years in different industries. Harry's accomplishments are numerous. Here are just a few:

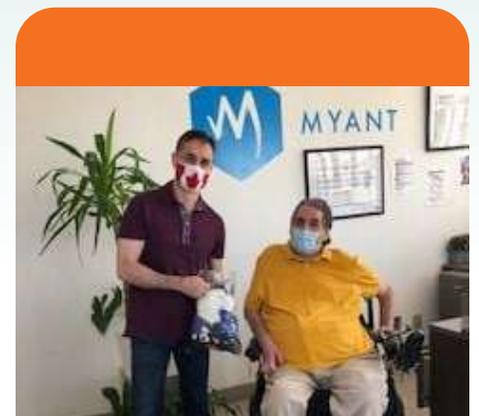
- Tetra Society's Lifetime Achievement-Award in 2010
- France's Legion of Honor
- British Flying Cross
- Canada's Sovereign Medal for Volunteers
- BC Community Achievement Award

Harry's support for Tetra will never be forgotten.

In recognition of Harry's contributions, Tetra has established the Harry Hardy Memorial Fund.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS FUND, PLEASE GO TO:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/tetra-society-of-north-america/campaign/harry-hardy/>



GLENN BARNES: MAKING A DIFFERENCE DURING COVID-19

See how one dedicated man raised **\$20,157** for Tetra Ontario COVID-19 pandemic relief.

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GLENN BARNES has been working with Tetra since the late 1990s as an integral part of Tetra's fundraising team. During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, Glenn saw his community in need and, through his contacts and the relationships he's built over the years, has been able to raise funds to provide PPEs and groceries for those in need within the disabled community.

Glenn's peer-to-peer fundraising campaign to provide gift-cards to Ontarians with disabilities who are unable to go shopping due to the COVID-19 pandemic raised \$7,657 to keep people with disabilities around Ontario from going hungry. As well, Glenn coordinated a campaign encouraging businesses in Ontario to donate masks, face shields, and hand sanitizer that are vital to help keep people with disabilities and their personal support workers safe and healthy during the pandemic and to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. These efforts have made a huge impact in the lives of others, with Glenn's combined fundraising efforts raising \$20,157!

"I WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THE GIFT CARDS SENT TO US. AS A SINGLE MOM TO A MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILD I CAN'T BEGIN TO EXPLAIN HOW HELPFUL THIS DONATION IS TO CHLOÉ AND I. PLEASE KNOW THAT WE ARE EVER SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT."

- GROCERY GIFT CARD RECIPIENT



COORDINATOR SPOTLIGHT

CRYSTAL LEOCHKO JOHNSTON

Winnipeg, MB



For many years, Tetra has received requests from Manitoba for Tetra devices and has completed those projects through the support of volunteers in other provinces.

In 2019, Tetra received support from organizations including the Winnipeg Foundation and the Blennerhassett Family Foundation to establish a chapter in Winnipeg. Tetra's first objective was to find a chapter coordinator and we were ecstatic that Crystal Leochko Johnston was able to join us!

MY NAME IS Crystal Leochko Johnston and I have been the Winnipeg Chapter Coordinator for Tetra since December 2019. Since the launch of the Winnipeg Chapter last winter, we have brought on nine passionate volunteers in a variety of roles:

- Volunteer coordinator
- Fundraiser
- Community Outreach
- Client Relations
- Technical volunteers (The people who build the devices).

The Chapter has made presentations to some local groups and our outreach volunteers are continually reaching out to the community. To date we have also distributed over 50 masks to local seniors groups and organizations due to COVID-19.

When I am not spending my time as a Chapter Coordinator for Tetra, I work as a prospect researcher for my consulting firm, Eclipse Research Group. In that role, I work with a number of organizations across Canada and the United States

LEFT: Chloe and her mother; Tetra Ontario clients who benefitted from Glenn's incredible fundraising efforts.

ABOVE: Crystal Leochko Johnston has been the coordinator for Tetra's Winnipeg Chapter since December 2019, and, while coordinating the chapter in Winnipeg, has been leading Tetra's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.

to assist them in meeting their fundraising goals.

I have always had a passion for research – I received a Master of Arts degree in History and also spent many of

my university days as a teaching assistant and researcher for various professors. When I took on my first job as a prospect researcher I fell in love with it and knew that I would be working in the non-profit sector for years to come.

When I first learned about Tetra I immediately knew that this was an organization I wanted to be involved with. Family and friends have been affected by various medical conditions (Wilson's Disease, Coronary Heart Disease, MS and arthritis to name a few) and I could immediately see the benefit Tetra could offer to the local community.

In the short time I have been with Tetra I have been surrounded by a fantastic group of people: our Prairie Regional Coordinator, Nichole Yamchuk, who has truly been an inspiration; the Winnipeg Chapter volunteers who are always there and ready to take on whatever tasks I ask of them; and members of the local community who are so excited when they learn about Tetra. I feel privileged to be the Winnipeg Chapter Coordinator and I am excited to see how the Chapter develops over the coming years!

"FAMILY AND FRIENDS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY VARIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS (WILSON'S DISEASE, CORONARY HEART DISEASE, MS AND ARTHRITIS TO NAME A FEW) AND I COULD IMMEDIATELY SEE THE BENEFIT TETRA COULD OFFER TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY."

- CRYSTAL LEOCHKO JOHNSTON

TETRA NATION 2020

A BIG SUCCESS!

This spring, we held our third TetraNation competition, showcasing projects done by Tetra's dedicated volunteers from around the country. The 2020 competition saw us receive more submissions than ever before with 39 projects submitted, from Vancouver to Halifax. Check out the prize-winning chapters from our three categories!

MOST VIEWED



Wheelchair Trainer Calgary, AB Chapter

A long-time Calgary volunteer, Fritz Peyerl designed a wheelchair trainer for Renfrew Educational Services, which helps children from the ages of 3 to 12 practice driving power wheelchairs. Fritz designed a system that allows a therapist or family member to support a child's mobility training in a way is safe and fun.

MOST INNOVATIVE



Kayak Transfer Aid London, ON Chapter

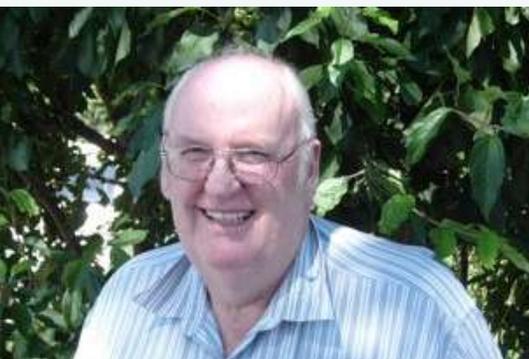
Volunteers Ken Stubbs and Jue Ruitenbeek in London, Ontario took on the task of designing a portable transfer bench that enables users of the adapted kayaks into be able to get in and out of the kayaks independently, thanks to the kayak sitting on a wagon that raises it off the ground before a pontoon is added for additional stability.

CHILD'S PROJECT



Knee Scooter Edmonton, AB Chapter

Edmonton volunteer Darek Brewin made a modification to the scooter of a young boy, who is an amputee, which enables him to ride it from a kneeling position. The scooter features added stability, the ability to go "off road", a brake system, adjustable seat and handles, and padding for the client to rest his knee on.



ABOVE: Tetra Volunteer Jim Stone

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jim Stone Alberta

"AFTER YEARS OF HELPING OTHERS, TETRA BECAME, IN A WAY, THE BIGGEST BLESSING OF MY LIFE."

- JIM STONE

Since the early 2000s, Jim Stone has been a volunteer in Red Deer, working on numerous projects around Alberta that address accessibility needs, from adapting hospital beds that support a person's disability needs to enhancing a person's ability to get around.

Because there is no chapter in Red Deer, Jim fills the void, supporting people in the region and helping to facilitate work on Tetra devices for people around Alberta.

AS THE YEARS HAVE PASSED, so have many of my ways: my expectations and my focus forward have all changed.

Some years back, I took on building two child's beds to meet both of their needs at once. A week later they were delivered and set up. Those were the days of wonderful energy and productivity; the good old days, where the ideas flowed and special needs children were my main focus. There were

Support the extraordinary work volunteers like Jim make possible by making a donation today.

For more information visit
TETRASOCIETY.ORG

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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!

3M Maverick Distillery
Affinity Credit Union
Agape Foundation of London
Alberta 3D PPE
Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation
Brafasco
Brampton and Caledon Community Foundation
Burlington Community Foundation
Cap Shield™
Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
Champion Products
Charles H. Ivey Foundation
Community Foundation of Mississauga - Pendle Fund
Community Foundation of the North Okanagan
Davies Charitable Foundation
Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) - Hamilton Community Foundation
Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) - London Community Foundation
Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) - Ottawa Community Foundation
Employment and Social Development Canada
Engineers and Geoscientists BC
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (Province of British Columbia)
Halton Region - Community Investment Fund
Hamilton Community Foundation
Harold E. Ballard Foundation
Harry P. Ward Foundation
HD Supply
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
Jack and Barbara Hay Foundation
Knights of Columbus - Alberta
London Community Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. P.A. Woodward's Foundation
Murphy's Distillery Ltd.
Myant Inc.
Nortex Industries
Ottawa Community Foundation
Pilkington-Henniger Charitable Trust
Purell
Region of Peel
Saskatchewan Roughriders Football Club
Shoppers Drug Mart
Sifton Family Foundation
Sobeys Inc.
Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia (SPARC)
SX Family Fund
The Blennerhasset Family Foundation
Windsor Ford
Winnipeg Foundation

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many big rewards, generated by those kids, which have kept me pumped up and excited, to continue tackling the challenges that they face.

My father was the biggest influence on my life. To him, the problems of everyone in our prairie community were a catalyst for him to take on the many needs of friends and neighbours. After being his helper for years, I became a welder, mechanic, and "Mr. Fix It" for the rest of my life. After years of helping others, Tetra became, in a way, the biggest blessing of my life. The clients, and their many needs and requirements, kept my mind active, focused and contented all this time, and I hope this continues for many more years.

Tetra brought a system of checks and balances that were very practical, and fit me and became all-satisfying to me. Of all the projects, the beds were the most satisfying. I built five full-sized hospital beds for kids that saved the backs of many parents, because they were not lifting 90 pound kids out of cribs several

times a day 6 inches off the floor. Instead, the beds put the kids approximately 3-feet off the floor for bathing or dressing and provided a clear view for the kids through the Plexiglas front that lifted to allow easy access.

The most unique project I designed was for a lady who wanted to be able to get around her house easier. I attached a runner to roller-skate wheels and she loved the freedom and mobility this gave her!

You can't go wrong with Tetra: as a family with needs, or as someone wanting to financially support a special cause, or as a volunteer looking for a rewarding way to spend your spare time.

BELOW: One of Jim's favourite projects, "Wheelchair Runners" enabled the client to get around their home more efficiently.



TETRA CHAPTERS

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Creston, BC
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Nanaimo, BC
Prince George, BC
Salt Spring Island, BC
Surrey/Langley/Delta
Trail/Castlegar, BC
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Vernon, BC

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Medecine Hat, AB
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Winnipeg, MB

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Salt Lake City, UT
Columbus, OH

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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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