

gizmo

THE TETRA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA: CUSTOM ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Our Biggest TetraNation Yet

The 2021 TetraNation competition took place during National Volunteer Week (April 18th to 24) and was our biggest ever! This year's competition featured 53 projects from our chapters across the country, from Vancouver to Newfoundland. It addressed needs in the lives with people with disabilities, creating opportunities to participate in recreation, get out into nature, or perform day-to-day tasks more efficiently and effectively. It was a friendly but hard-fought competition amongst Tetra's 26 chapters, with each chapter vying for prizes in three categories:

- **MOST VOTES**
- **BEST CHILDREN'S PROJECT**
- **MOST INNOVATIVE**

Most Votes, Hamilton, ON

Over 250 votes were cast during the week-long competition, keeping the race close for the Most Votes award. In the end, the award went to the Hamilton chapter for the beach wheelchair created by longtime volunteer Jim Rennie. The beach wheelchair, which is compact and can be assembled and disassembled as needed, was built for a young client to support his rehabilitation efforts as he recovers from surgery. Jim crafted the beach wheelchair in just three weeks, using PVC piping which kept the chair lightweight but sturdy. Congratulations to Jim and the Hamilton Chapter!

Adaptive beach wheelchair. -----



Best Children's Project, Edmonton, AB

The winner of this year's award for Best Children's Project recognized the modifications made to a tricycle for a young client with cerebral palsy, whose tricycle needed significant adaptations to address the client's movement, balance, and posture requirements. Completed by Steve Bosch, a volunteer with Tetra's Edmonton chapter, the tricycle was given an overhaul from its original state, receiving a new steering mechanism, adapted handlebars, as well as an adjusted seat back and harness.

-----Adaptive tricycle.

Continue reading on next page.

Most Innovative Project, St. John's, NL

This year's winner for Most Innovative Project was something new to everyone at Tetra. A young man from Newfoundland discovered wheelchair archery and wanted to pursue it more fully after receiving a compound bow for Christmas. Working with Leonard Lye, a retired engineer and longtime Tetra volunteer, a frame was built that provided the client with some support and assistance with stabilizing the bow and pulling the string to fire the arrow.

A huge round of applause to everyone who submitted a video to this year's #TetraNation and our heartfelt thanks to everyone that cast a vote for their favourite project(s)! We look forward to the 2022 competition which promises to be even bigger than this year!

Adaptive bow and arrow.-----



**TETRA
NATION**
2021

To see more of this year's
TetraNation projects, visit
www.TetraNation.org

Tetra Welcomes NEW COORDINATOR in Saskatoon

Meet Jean Price. Jean joined Tetra as the Saskatoon chapter coordinator in January. Even though Jean is just beginning her journey with Tetra, she is making great strides in an upwards direction and is doing an amazing job developing relationships with potential and existing volunteers, clients, and community partners in the Saskatoon community. Jean says this about joining Tetra:

"I am thrilled to have joined the Tetra team in January 2021 as the Saskatoon Chapter Coordinator. My background is largely in arts, culture and heritage, as well as working with newcomers as an English language teacher. I've lived in several countries, but am happy to be back in my

home province. When I saw the position with Tetra, I knew immediately that I wanted to work with the organization as I believe that the world should be accessible and accommodating to everyone, regardless of their personal circumstances and Tetra actively makes people's physical lives easier through their amazing network of volunteers and coordinators. Although I am still new to Tetra and learning the ropes, I have been fortunate to get to know some of the great people in the organization and am really looking forward to coordinating a successful Chapter creating lots of helpful devices!"

Jean is very confident and driven in her efforts, and we are happy to have her as a member of the Prairie team!



Jean Price, Tetra Coordinator, Saskatoon.

Volunteer Spotlight

Jim Rennie, Hamilton-Halton-Niagara Chapter

While most of us were slowed down by the COVID-19 pandemic, Jim Rennie has kept just as busy as ever. Since March of 2020, he's been involved in numerous projects, including the creation of an accessible crib and change table, a beach wheelchair, and an all-terrain wheelchair (which received the most votes in this year's TetraNation contest). He has continued designing and building devices, working with clients through emails, receiving answers to his questions about a client's needs as well as the measurements needed for the design process.

Jim has been a Tetra volunteer since 2008 and has contributed to the chapter's expansion to areas such as Ft. Erie while completing over 50 devices for people with disabilities. He received Roy T. Adams Award for his volunteer work for Tetra in 2018.



Jim Rennie receiving the Roy T. Adams Award in 2018

Cody Wesley, Edmonton Chapter

Cody Wesley has been an asset to Tetra for many years. Not only does he volunteer as a project builder, he is also a community connector, mentors new volunteers, and has traveled across the country for the 2019 Tetra Conference. Cody has a multifaceted skill set and an inspiring outlook on life, he always has a smile on his face and is ready to use his 3D printer! We are so grateful to have him as a volunteer.

Here's what Cody wanted to share about his time with Tetra:

"I originally started volunteering with Tetra 3 years ago, while finishing up my university degree. I saw it as an opportunity to gain experience as a new graduate in a field I wanted to work in. What I appreciate most about Tetra is the personal relationships you have with the clients. In particular, I enjoyed intimately understanding their very specific needs, and working with them as partners in the process of creating their one off device. The experience has given me a greater appreciation for the amazing skills and abilities of the disabled community.

I have worked on several projects, but the one that stands out the most is a Boccia ramp I created for a local athlete. The client and I spent several nights at the Glenrose Gym, teaching me about the sport of Boccia, and fine tuning the ramp for his specific needs. In the end we were able to create something we were both proud of and it allowed him to compete at a higher level without his equipment holding him back."



Cody Wesley review the Boccia Ramp he built for a client in Alberta.

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!

- Affinity Credit Union
- Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation
- Brampton and Caledon Community Foundation
- Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- Charles H. Ivey Foundation
- Community Foundation of Kingston and Area
- Community Foundation of the North Okanagan
- Davies Charitable Foundation
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Engineers and Geoscientists BC
- Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (Province of British Columbia)
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- The Community Foundation of Mississauga
- The Georgina Foundation
- The Guelph Community Foundation
- The Marion Ethel Kamm and Frederick John Kamm Foundation
- Toronto Community Foundation
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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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