

It's all about sharing techniques: kite flyer

Published Thursday August 12th, 2010

Robert Van Weers of New Zealand tries to visit as many kiting events as possible

kite flyer Robert Van Weers of New Zealand is not only enjoying his first time in Dieppe, but also in Canada.

◀
1 of 2
▶



GREG AGNEW/TIMES AND TRANSCRIPT

Robert Van Weers of New Zealand works out the kinks on a newly-built kite.

The kite-creating, kite-flying globe trotter has seen many pockets of the world over the last several years due to this love for kite festivals such as the Dieppe Kite International.

"It's really a hobby that has taken me to a lot of different places, I try to visit as many festivals as I can," he says.

"It's all about getting flyers together and sharing our techniques and learning new ones."

His special technique is his talent at producing soft kites, meaning they are made without sticks, but rather string. Not only do they soar well in the air, they're also very advantageous for overseas travellers.

"It's much easier packing a soft kite and getting it through security checks," chuckles Van Weers.

The New Zealander has in fact brought a bevy of kites with him to this week's event, including a cartoon version of a Boeing airplane, which measures 10 metres long and 4 metres high. It will be the first time Van Weers flies his latest creation, which he fabricated within three weeks.

Van Weers says he heard about the Dieppe Kite International through the similar event held in Dieppe, France.

When he found out that both festivals were to be held in the same year in 2010, he thought it was the perfect time to make the journey to Canada.

"For me, it was an inspiration to go to both events. And it's been simply wonderful so far. Of course, it brings you far away from your family, but with Internet now, it's much cheaper to stay in touch and keep them up to date on what you're doing," he says with a big grin, kite in hand.

