

# Look up, way up!

Published Wednesday August 11th, 2010

## 6th Dieppe Kite International runs in Dover Community Park this week and has something for everyone

The Dieppe Kite International festival is set to take flight - a celebration of both the simple beauty of kite flying and the artistic mastery of harnessing the power of the wind.

◀  
1 of 3  
▶



The colours are bright and the kites are big at the Dieppe Kite International, with many kites having an Acadian feel.

Alastair MacPherson, who is in his eighties, remembers kite flying when he was just a boy.

"One of my best friends and I would fly kites all day," he recalls.

"I remember this one time when we tried to keep it up all night by putting the string through a knot hole in his father's shed," he laughs.

And that is just the thing, Kite flying has been around forever. Remember, Ben Franklin supposedly discovered electricity by flying a kite in a lightning storm (do not try this at home); and silk kites date back almost 3,000 years in China. Apparently Marco Polo brought the ideas of kites back to Europe.

Back then they were used mostly for scientific experiments; and they are still used today in many practical ways. The military uses kites for observation and signalling. They can be used in meteorology to lift weather beacons, or to run radio wires and antennas. Kites are even used to pull people or vehicles; and can be used in power generation. Still, the most popular application is to have fun.

"There are all kinds of kites now," says Yvon Haché of the Skyline Kite Club in Dieppe, "You have everything from single line kites, through Rokkaku combat kites. Then there are multi line sports kites with anywhere up to four different lines, as well as the huge demonstration kites, and even kites that you use to ride a surf board in the waves."

Yvon himself has a number of different kites, mostly single line; a Rokkaku combat kite, and a multi-line sports kite which he admittedly is still trying to learn how to fly.

"I make all of my kites myself," says Yvon, "so it allows me to be creative and to design something. I guess it also forces me to go outside."

Denis Leblanc, the coordinator of the Festival, explains that it all started through a partnership with the city of Dieppe in France. The Festival was originally held there, but then it was decided to cross the ocean in opposite years and it went back and forth for a number of years, one year it would be in France, the next in Canada.

"Due to the enormous success we had last year; with over 40,000 people attending, we have made the decision to make it an annual event," explains Denis.

But don't worry if you really wanted to check out the French counterpart, it is still happening every September.

"This is an international festival that garners a lot of international attention," explains Denis, "we go out to other festivals, we watch kite demonstrations on YouTube, and we invite people to bring their shows here. This year we have representatives from nine countries participating."

Yvon has attended every single festival. He uses one of his kites as a huge 12 foot by eight foot aerial camera mount and has photos posted on the web at [yvonhache.com](http://yvonhache.com)

"This festival is different than most of the festivals around," he says, "people think that kites are just the same as they remember from when they were a kid - the type that you have to run and run to get in the air and then you just stand there holding them. Everyone who goes to the festival leaves seeing kites in a completely different way."

There is also music, dances, kid's activities, and a ton of demonstrations.

"One of the special things we are bringing in this year is an indoor kite show from Las Vegas," says Denis, "they do windless kite flying along to music, and it is quite amazing to watch."

He explains that kites are up in the air all day long, there is never a moment when you are not going to see something to amaze you. And if you are a local flyer and want to come and participate in the Rokkaku combat, you can do that too.

"And don't forget that there are concerts on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as well, it is going to be a really great festival," says Denis.

"I think anyone can fly a kite," says Yvon, "and there is a type of kite for everyone."

He goes on to explain that at the festival you will see all sorts of artistic people doing all sorts of artistic things with all kinds of kites. You can see people with miniature kites right up through a giant squid."

"You can do anything you want with kites as a hobby," he says, "it just depends on how much time and money you want to put into it; but there are all kinds of choices, it is truly something for everyone."

----

6th Dieppe Kite International will be held in Dover Community Park starting today and running until August 15.

Each day of the Festival, there will be free kite demonstrations, Rokkaku challenges with international kite flyers, and acrobatic kite flying demonstrations. Other activities will be offered, such as kite creation in a tent, inflatable games, face painting, competitions, and a magic show with Rémi Boudreau.

The five days will be filled with activities and shows, the first one taking place on the Friday evening, with a special reunion of the Sweet Temptation group, The Divorcees, Melanie Morgan, and Francelle Maria.

Saturday promises to be very special with the night flight and the show featuring Cayouche, George Belliveau, and Hert LeBlanc. On Sunday, Acadia will be celebrated on a large scale with Chiac, Acajun, Dominique Dupuis, Entoucas, and Rhéal LeBlanc.

Entrance fees to the evening shows are \$15 for Friday, \$20 for Saturday, and \$5 for the August 15 show. All evening shows are free for children 12 and under.

For those wishing to participate in three evening shows, a pass will be available for \$30. This pass as well as other tickets are on sale now at the Jean Coutu pharmacies of Dieppe and Shediac, the Sobeys stores in Dieppe and Shediac, Higo Market in Saint-Antoine, and Esso of Memramcook. CHAOS dance show and the indoor kite flight - tomorrow, with Aerial Experience from Las Vegas will be held at the Arthur-J.-LeBlanc Centre. Tickets will be on sale at the cost of \$2 for children 12 and under, and \$5 for adults."

A free shuttle service will be offered from the Arthur-J.-LeBlanc Centre to the Dover Community Park during the evening of the shows.