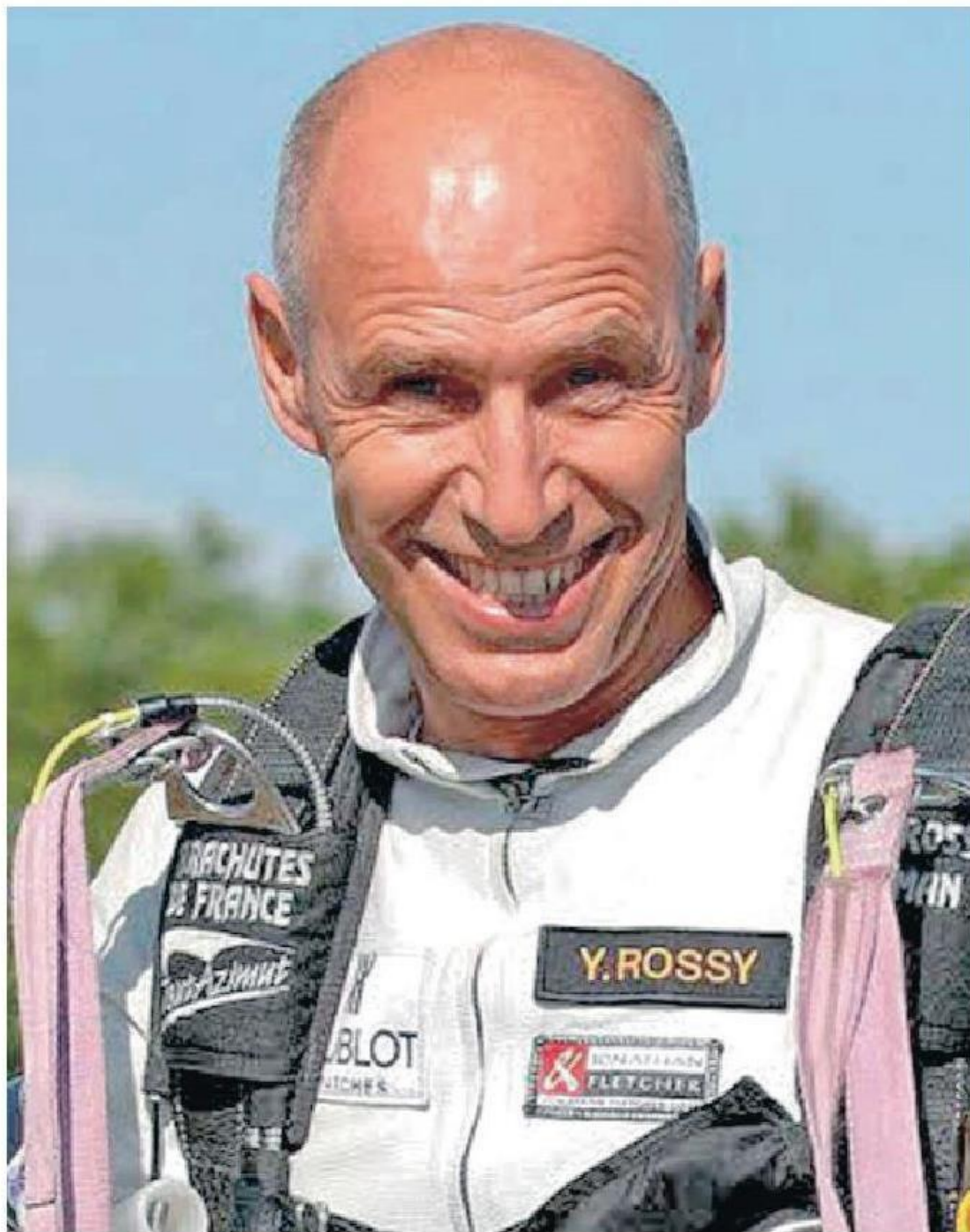


Jetman to share the thrill of flight with fans at SportShow



FREQUENT FLYER: Yves Rossy

WHEN he became the first man in history to fly with a jet-propelled wing in 2004, Yves Rossy achieved what many thought was impossible.

In the years that followed, he would continue to push the boundaries, stunning the world with unprecedented feats including his formation flight alongside a passenger aircraft in Dubai last year.

Known as the Jetman, Rossy will be one of the guests featured in the Xtreme Speakerbox as part of the Cape Argus SportShow.

The Cape Argus SportShow, the first multi-sport festival to be held in South Africa, takes place from tomorrow to Monday at the Sandringham Farm, Stellenbosch. Visitors can expect a variety of entertainment such as sports clinics and appearances by sports celebrities.

Rossy is a Swiss-born former military pilot who is young at heart.

“In my body, I am 57-years-old, but in my

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spirit I’m a 12-year-old boy.”

He told the Cape Argus he was looking forward to his trip, having never visited South Africa.

“I am so excited to come and see South Africa. I’ve only ever seen pictures, but it looks beautiful. The fact that I get to see Cape Town with Table Mountain is even better,” he said.

While attending an airshow as an impressive 13-year-old in his hometown, Rossy fell in love. He completed training as a military pilot and took up a career in the air force.

He would later captain commercial flights with Swiss International Air Lines.

However, the safety of a commercial aeroplane captain soon became boring.

Experiencing “the third dimension” was his ultimate goal, he said. This meant having the ability to move upwards and downwards, which was only possible with either jet wings or in a helicopter.

“It’s like being in a big bowl with a large volume. You have more space to play,” he said mischievously.

“Flying is fantastic and magical.”

The Jetman will be hosting a demonstration and discussion about his jet-propelled wings this weekend. Despite his excitement at visiting Cape Town, Rossy said he would have loved to fly.

“I am disappointed that I can’t fly, but on the other hand it’s good. Now I can see the people and region for the first time. If it gives me the opportunity to come another time, that’s a bonus too. I would love to come fly next year and participate,” he said.