Santa comes to Potton for tree lighting ceremony

CFL all-star speaks to Bishop's students

By Dan Gilbert
Special to The Record

François Tanguay
Editor’s Note: Record columnist François Tanguay is currently attending the COP 21 climate change talks in Paris. He will be sharing his daily observations with Record readers here and on sherbrookerecord.com.

Kyles Hebert, a former NFL player and current linebacker for the CFL’s Montreal Alouettes, visited Bishop’s University for an afternoon presentation last Tuesday.

Hebert spoke to students in the Sports Studies program about the business of sports professionals. Organized by professor Morgan Quinn and program chair Dr. Brad Wills, the lecture was part of a series that not only gives students a clearer picture of life in the sporting world, but also aims to help prepare them for future employment opportunities and further studies in areas such as coaching, sports management, recreation, and leisure.

After being released by the NFL’s Cincinnati Bengals in 2010, Hebert, who was turning 30 at the time, could have called it a career, but he found new life with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the CFL. Two years later he signed the Alouettes, earning all-star honors in 2012.

In his talk, Hebert spoke at length about his ascension to the professional ranks, articulating the many obstacles he had to face along the way. He also touched on the particulars of his contract and the business model of sports professionals.

Hebert also touched the relatively short-lived career of an athlete (particularly one that has the opportunity to play pro football) and how to prepare for the possibility of an abrupt end to playing the sport.

Being involved with professional football for over a decade has given Hebert a chance to give back to the community. Five years ago, he founded the Ky Cares Foundation, which holds events to benefit a number of causes that will enrich the lives of youth.

For his outstanding display of sportsmanship on the field, as well as his contributions to his team and community beyond it, Hebert was the 2013 recipient of the CFL’s Tom Pate Memorial Award, awarded to a player who has made a significant contribution to his team and community.

12 days in Paris: Day 1

The French government officially handed out the keys to Le Bourget to UN representatives this past Saturday. For the next 12 days, this territory will be United Nations-run. The most important Climate Summit in history is underway.

On Monday, 147 heads of state will make their formal opening statements in a remarkable diplomatic ballet. “Make it short,” they were told! They have been asked to limit their interventions to, get this, three minutes! A fair number are not known to hold it too much in when it comes to speaking up. Should be fun.

The Summit is in fact a collection of events. At the core are, of course, the negotiations that will lead to the new global agreement on climate. No doubt, there will also be a Paris Deal. What remains to be seen is what will be in the box.

There is plenty of room for negotiations to get heated, such as the subject of financing less developed nations. Here it is worth mentioning that Justin Trudeau has already announced what Canada intends to contribute to the Global Climate Fund: $2.5 billion over the next five years.

Then there is the solidity of the deal. The big hope is that the final document will legally bind the signatories. Tough to do. Obama, for one, is facing an obstructionist Republican-led Congress. China and some Southeast Asian nations are miles from providing diligent follow-ups, and, the extreme differences between the rich and the poor will complicate how finances will be distributed.

Still to be determined is what will be the extent of the Greenhouse Gas reductions? Will they be sufficient to turn humanity towards a cap that will keep us within the limits of a two-degree rise in global temperatures set by the United Nations climate specialists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change? So many questions that need an urgent and positive response.

The Scoop

Mable Hastings

On Saturday evening, Nov. 28, Santa and Mrs. Claus joined parents and children for the second annual tree lighting ceremony in Potton’s Place. Manson located in the center of the town of Mansonville.

Organized by municipal councillor Pierre Pouliot, assisted by his wife Marlene Hamelin and other volunteers, the event was attended by both the young and the young at heart. With a chill in the air and the smell of warm hot chocolate dancing on the breeze, many gathered to celebrate the season.

Two trees, one located under the gazebo where every child was invited to bring a decoration to add, and the other a tall one covered in hundreds of multi-colored lights adding a special sparkle for all to enjoy. As the lighting of the tree took place, many exclamations of joy could be heard.

This new tradition gains attendance each year and serves as a reminder to the children that the wonder of the holiday season is fast approaching.

For information about happenings in Potton township visit www.potton.ca.