

FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY 126 ARE MOST WELCOME

To The Editor:

"Get Your Kicks, On Route 126 This song was made popular by Nat King Cole in the 1950s, except it was Route 66, a famous U.S. highway. But the motorists who get their kicks traveling Route 126 don't need to sing the blues no more. The announcement by Transport Minister Denis Landry that 24 more kilometres will be rebuilt between Miramichi and Moncton was sweet music to their ears. This announcement was long, long overdue because the road had been left to deteriorate to the point that it was almost no longer a Transport Department issue, but more a Public Safety Department matter. Before repairs began last spring, alders were almost slapping you in the face as you drove along the highway because brush cutting had been so badly neglected for so long. Pot holes, ruts and crevices along some stretches got the best of many mufflers and struts, and were witness to many accidents and close calls. Politics aside, the premier was true to his word.

and no one who drives regularly the roads of this province can cry foul about the money allocated to bring this heavily traveled road to accepted standards. More work still needs to be done to make it safer, such as eliminating some dangerous curves between Collette and Miramichi. Route 126 has been the preferred choice of thousands of cars, trucks and trailers that use it every day despite its pitiful condition. Why? Because it is the shortest distance from Miramichi to Moncton. It makes a lot of sense and a lot of "cents", motorists save a minimum of 22 kilometres one way, compared to going by Highway 11. Having said that, it's a win-win situation also for the users of Highway 11 with the minister's announcement because not only will they get 15 kilometres of paving, but the traffic should be lighter after the repairs are completed on Highway 126. Motorists will finally "get their kicks on 126".

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