

TERRY, Don

Intell May 31/91 p.13

For safety-conscious trucker,

Over more than 30 years of commercial truck driving with an impeccable safety record, Belleville driver Don Terry has won so many awards one might suspect he's become used to it. But winning the National Driver of the Year award, complete with a large trophy, remains an exciting event for him.

An employee of the Belleville-based Canada Transport's Canada-JET Transportation, carrying general goods, Terry has been

with the firm for the past 16 years.

He was the company's own "driver of the year" award winner in 1978. He has also won first place in the company's own group tractor and trailer roadeo, and has won a "show and shine" award at Shannonville for the best cab-over.

Last year, he was named Ontario Driver of the Year, and an independent panel of judges representing the Canada Safety

Council, Transport Canada, and the Traffic Injury Research Foundation of Canada decided to name him the first national Driver of the Year from Ontario.

Company president Dick Baker said it was a special honor both to his company and for Ontario. "We're obviously very proud," he said as the local announcement was made Friday at the company's Bellevue Drive terminal. To add to the appreciation, Baker presented Terry with a

awards just keep rolling in

travel voucher for himself and his wife, Lorna.

Now in his 47th year, Terry says he has always put his best into his driving because "it was something I always wanted to do since I was a child, and I stuck with it."

For his first 15 years in the business, Terry drove moving vans for the former LaPalm movers, "coast to coast." Since joining Canada Transport Group, his main routes have been various

destinations in Ontario and Quebec, but he still averages "about 100,000 miles per year," with a career total of 2.5 million accident-free miles.

The award is based not only on driving, but attitude and achievements, including family. He and his wife have four children. He has also been quick to point out hazards to government ministries he has observed on highways, or stop to help out in emergencies, such as a recent bad road acci-

dent during a blizzard just west of Belleville on Highway 401.

"The biggest hazard on the highways is speed," affirms Terry. "I don't like it myself, and some motorists have no idea how hard it is to brake a loaded truck."

Baker also praised the company's own safety officer, Vickie Graham, who seized on Terry's record and sent in the nomination. "Without her nomination, there would be no award."

Intell May 31/91 p.13