



Private Motor Truck Council of Canada  
Association Canadienne du Camionnage d'Entreprise



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## **PMTC ANNOUNCES INDUCTEES TO HALL OF FAME FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS**

The Private Motor Truck Council of Canada inducted 4 exceptional drivers into the **HALL OF FAME FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS** during the 2nd day of its annual conference on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Niagara Falls, On.

The Hall of Fame is sponsored by CPC Logistics Canada. Drivers from PMTC member companies are recognized for superior over the road performance over an extended period of time. The Hall of Fame provides a permanent recognition of their abilities and can be found on the PMTC website at [www.pmtc.ca](http://www.pmtc.ca).

“The skills of professional truck drivers are evident to all road users, and are especially valued by their employers,” said PMTC President Mike Millian. “These professionals compile safe driving records that are beyond amazing, considering all the adverse conditions they face every day. Only a select few can equal the caliber of the drivers in the Hall of Fame. The industry salutes these individuals, and we are pleased to honor them today.”

**The 2022 inductees are Jim Burrows, Brian Smith, Bernard Jinks & Bill Walker. Together, these 4 individuals have amassed an incredible 187 years and over 18 million kilometers of accident-free driving.**

The Private Motor Truck Council of Canada and CPC Logistics Canada are pleased to induct these four professionals into the Hall of Fame for Professional Drivers.

### **Jim Burrows Air Liquide Canada Inc.**

Jim’s driving career spans 41 years, all of which have been with Air Liquid. During this time Jim has amassed over 3.8 million km’s of accident free driving.

Jim began at Air Liquid in 1973 as a shipper/receiver in their London, On plant. In 1977 he decided he wanted to move into the driving field and became a backup driver transporting cylinders and bulk liquid oxygen. He transferred into this role full time in 1981 hauling bulk carbon dioxide and liquid propane. In 2003 the plant moved to Courtright, and Jim followed. In 2018 the Courtright plant shut down, and moved to Aylmer, where Jim once again followed. Jim’s dedication to the company was demonstrated and appreciated during these times.

Jim has exhibited an exemplary safety record over the years and demonstrated this time and again. Jim is very active in the local sporting community. He has been involved in minor hockey as a coach and scout for a number of years, as well as teaching skills to the local youth. Jim is also highly involved in softball and has participated nationally in many events over the years.

After 49 years at Air Liquide, 41 as a driver, Jim has announced he will retire in 2022.



**Brian Smith**  
**Sharp Transportation Systems Inc.**

Brian's driving career spans 45 years 14 of which, including the last 5 have been with Sharp Transportation. During this time Bernie has amassed 4.5 million km's of accident free driving.

Brian started in the industry at the age of 17 working for a moving company in Ottawa. He started out driving a 26 foot straight truck, graduating to a 32 footer, before moving onto a day cab tractor hooked onto a 36 foot trailer running from Winnipeg to the Maritimes. Brian became an owner operator in 1985. He has drove company trucks as well but prefers the pride of owning and operating his own truck. Brian was in the moving business for 32 years. He has also hauled equipment for the TV sports industry, moving equipment for broadcasting junior & college football, baseball and soccer in the US.

Brian did retire a few years ago but came back after only 2 months. Brian is always the first to stop and help travelers in trouble on the side of the road, helping change tires and other repairs when needed and ensure if someone is stranded that help is on the way. Brian says there is no relaxation when driving, if you want to be a safe driver, the phone needs to be out of reach as well as any other distractions.

Brian is on the road for 3 to 5 weeks before going home to Gatineau, Que to spend time with his wife of 25 years. The two ran the road together for many years in the past. Brian has 2 children, 6 grandchildren & 2 great grandchildren.

Brian and his family are currently making plans to take in a family from Ukraine to assist with aid and relocation, a truly selfless act.

**Bernie Jinks**  
**Linde Canada Inc.**

Bernie's exemplary driving career spans 46 years, the last 17 of which have been at Linde Canada. During this time Bernie has amassed 4.8 million km's of accident free driving.

Bernie unofficially began his driving career at age 12, when his uncle would put his 10T straight truck in low gear and tell Bernie to just steer it straight down the field while they picked tomatoes at the farm. In 1976 at the age of 18, Bernie officially started his career at BP Petro Canada. In the late 70's BP noticed Bernie's expertise in hauling and handling dangerous goods, and Bernie was given the role of driver trainer. In the 80's Bernie spent a few years working for Zavitz Bros Transport as a Driver trainer and then an Owner Operator. As an Owner operator Bernie moved on to work for Bulk Systems. While there he also trained new employees and acted as a union rep. for owner operators. In the 90's he signed on with Sundown Tank lines as their 1<sup>st</sup> owner operator. He was also given the role to train new employees along with his regular driving duties. In 2005 Bernie sold his truck and began working for Linde Canada. In 2007 Linde asked Bernie to take on the role of Driver Champion, which evolved into not only training new drivers but also assisting local management on various operational tasks. In 2010 Linde asked Bernie to oversee a new hub in St. Catherine's, On. Bernie would continue his regular driving and also provide help to develop the new location, which he is still doing to this day as a driving champion, as well as a formal driver trainer for the whole region.



On the personal side, Bernie is happily married to Christine, and is a proud father of 5 children and a grandfather of 3. Bernie is active in his community and is involved in many charities and is part of the guest services team at the Central Community Church serving the Niagara Region.

**Bill Walker**  
**Wellington Group of Companies**

Bill began his driving career in 1967 hauling vegetables for his uncle. Over the past 55 years Bill has driven all over North America, amassing over 5 million km's of accident free driving. After 10 years working for his uncle, Bill worked a few years for Ken Hartley before buying his own Tractor and going to work for C & S out of Leamington. After a few years there, C & S went out of business and Bill moved his truck over to Maurice Transport out of Wheatley. While there a substitute driver ended up getting in a wreck and the truck was wrote off. Bill then moved to Great lakes Trucking, later sold to Ken Atkinson, where he was a company driver for 19 years. Bill has worked at Wellington Motor Freight since 2019.

Bill's work ethic, personality and safety first attitude were commended by his past employers and co-workers. When dispatch would check in with Bill for the day, he always knew what he had to do for the day, never complained and just went about doing his work. Bill is described as a very conscientious worker, with a great personality and a safety first attitude. Bill works well with his fellow employees and is eager to share his knowledge. When new drivers start at Wellington, Bill shows them the ropes and keeps a watchful and helpful eye on them for the first while, as a driver indicated who wrote in to tell us how helpful Bill was. When Covid hit, Bill's workload actually increased, as he delivers frozen vegetables for a dedicated customer. Bill was putting in more hours than many drivers half his age and had no issue handling the workload.

On a personal level, as part of a Christmas Charity drive, Bill and his wife Joyce spearheaded a campaign to bring Christmas flowers and decorations to a public funded retirement home that had been ravaged by Covid earlier in the year. Bill and his wife have also volunteered at the same church for over 55 years. Bill is described as an honest man who works hard and believes in putting forth his best effort at all times, while being safe and always thinking of others.

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