John McBride gets award for 50 blood donations

John McBride, Arctic coordinator, AES (Downsview) has made a habit of giving blood two or three times a year ever since he was an 18-year-old student at McGill University in Montreal. He has always regarded these donations as a civic responsibility and a privilege somewhat akin to voting.

Imagine his surprise therefore when, on attending the January 19 AES Downsview Blood Donor Clinic, he received a certificate from the Red Cross signed by none other than Governor General, Edward Schreyer, who happens to be the organization's honorary president.

The occasion was Mr. McBride's 50th blood donation, and for this he was cited as being a "distinguished citizen and humanitarian."

John Keefe, AES safety officer who coordinates the Downsview clinics, says he believes Mr. McBride's award is a first for the Service and is "truly outstanding."

He adds that blood donor clinics have been held in the Downsview building ever since it opened in 1971. Dates are set and detailed plans made for both winter and summer clinics about eight months in advance. The work involves printing and distributing flyers to all AES staff as well as informing such neighboring institutions as the University of Toronto Press and the Institute of Aerospace Studies. (These also send contingents to the clinics).

People from Material Management must be recruited to load and unload Red Cross beds and movers hired to shift the main lobby furniture. In addition tea and coffee is donated by the CNIB and juice and biscuits supplied by outside companies.

If all goes well, some 150 employees attend the clinic and about 135 blood units are accepted.

Adds Mr. Keefe, "The blood donor clinics are one of the ways AES contributes to our local community and to society in general. The January clinic was one of the more successful ones."

John McBride, AES Arctic coordinator, receives award honoring his 50 blood donations from Mrs. Marg Watson, convenor of Red Cross volunteers for the AES Downsview blood donors' clinic.