

## Media Release

March 7, 2018

### **South West Woodlot Association Recognizes Elgie Family**

**Brooke-Alvinston** – The South West Woodlot Association (SWWA), a chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association, held its Annual Meeting and Information Day last week at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre Complex.

“Our goal as an organization is to provide landowners with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage their woodlots sustainably,” explained President, Jessica Smeekens, “One way we accomplish this by organizing educational events and programs throughout the year with assistance from our technical advisors.”

At the Annual Meeting and Information Day there were special presentations by Sara Rowland, Urban Forestry Planner for the City of London, who spoke about the value of urban forests and the importance of trees to human health. Dr. André Lachance, Vice President of the Thames Talbot Land Trust, spoke about the Land Trust’s management objectives for the 1,400 acres of natural areas they have acquired over the past 18 years.

The SWWA Board for 2018 was also decided at the meeting, Jessica Smeekens will serve as President and David Braet will remain on as Past President.

Each year the SWWA recognizes the efforts of local woodlot owners who display exemplary woodlot management practices with the Woodlot Management Award.

“This year we presented our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Woodlot Management Award to the families of Bill and Earl Elgie,” said Past President, Dave Braet, “The Elgies own and manage approximately 50 acres of woodlot on six different farms in Lambton County. Their goal is to enhance diversity of hardwood and softwood species while cutting “junk” trees and invasive species.”

Bill Elgie thanked the SWWA for the recognition, “Trees are essential on our family farm. We’ve always had woodlots and plan to keep it this way. The woodlots are needed for recreation, family outings, wiener roasts, a wedding, wildlife habitat, a source of income, and the exercise we get as we maintain them.”

### **About the South West Woodlot Association**

The South West Woodlot Association (SWWA) was established by a group of resident woodlot owners in 1994 and joined the Ontario Woodlot Association in 2005. Since its inception, the SWWA chapter’s fundamental purpose has been to encourage sustainable forest practices by helping landowners to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge. In promoting woodlots and their importance, the South West chapter holds educational events throughout the year. The South West Chapter invites woodlot owners, families, individuals, or anyone with an interest in trees and forests to become members.



**Photo Caption:** The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Woodlot Management Award was presented to the families of Bill and Earl Elgie. From left to right: Past President, Dave Braet; 2018 Woodlot Management Award recipients, Earl, Nancy, Loree, and Bill Elgie.

- 30 -

**For more information, contact:**  
Jessica Smeekens, President  
South West Woodlot Association  
Email: [swwaowa@gmail.com](mailto:swwaowa@gmail.com)