

# Unique opportunity to preserve UP forest land

Last week was a good one for stewardship of Michigan's great places.

Gov. John Engler and the Michigan chapter of the Nature Conservancy announced the start of a campaign to buy 390,000 acres of largely wilderness land scattered throughout the Upper Peninsula. The present owner, the Kamahameha Schools Trust of Hawaii, announced in July it intended to sell the land to the highest bidder by the end of this year; best guess is the price will be in the neighborhood of \$160 million.

This colossal once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is obviously too large for a single bidder. Instead, the governor and the Conservancy are working to put together a very broad public-private coalition including state government (the governor has asked the Natural Resources Trust Fund for \$20 million) and federal government (the Michigan congressional delegation has been asked to lobby for federal funds).

Also included is Michigan's philanthropic community (the governor has asked the biggest foundations in the state to meet with him in a couple of weeks to discuss the project). Corporations and individuals will be asked to help as time goes on.

The thought is to work out a deal with a timber company that would allow it to practice selective cutting on most of the property to preserve healthy forests and clean waters, but to guarantee public access to the land for hunting, fishing, hiking and snowmobiling. A likely outcome is for the timber company to wind up owning title to the land, but subject to a "conservation easement"; this system has been field-tested in similar (but much smaller) deals in New York and New Hampshire. A little land — the watershed for the Two Hearted River, the site of Ernest Hemingway's famous short story, for example — would be carved out for preservation by the Conservancy.

The deal offers a great combination of win-win outcomes:

- The land would continue to be timbered and to provide jobs vital to the economy of the Upper Peninsula. The land would also stay on the local tax rolls, thereby preserving revenue base for strung local governments.
- The public would be guaranteed continued recreational access to the land, which means fisherfolk, hunters, hikers and snowmobilers would continue to enjoy the north woods they love. The woods are important draws for the UP's tourism industry.
- Piece-meal development would be precluded. UP residents still remember with anger a company that thought to develop some of these lands near Au Train and put up long white

pletect fences to keep undesirables out. Once broken up and developed, this land can never be put back together.

Obviously, a deal like this is by no means a sure thing. There are a lot of moving parts involved, increasing the chances something could go wrong. Reasonably enough, the Kamahameha Schools intends to conduct a public auction to sell the land to the highest bidder. That's why a sweeping public-private coalition on behalf of the people of Michigan is needed to demonstrate wide and deep support and, maybe, scare off some exploitative but rich potential bidders.

So far, opposition has been minimal. Most people in the UP are deeply skeptical of plots hatched up by "trolls below the bridge." But so far as I can tell, most Yoopers recognize this

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deal is so big and important that it needs statewide support. Local government officials by and large are positive, and the area's congressman, Bart Stupak, is taking a careful look at the details.

The one sour note was sounded by the ultra-right wing Midland-based Mackinac Center for Public Policy, whose reflex arc supporting pure market-based activities is as strong as the salivary glands in Pavlov's dogs. "A state land grab," charged Diane Katz, director of science, environment and technology policy at the Center, conveniently ignoring the fact that title to the land will wind up in the private sector.

The record should show that I am not a neutral party in all this. I'm the chairman-elect of the Michigan chapter of the Nature Conservancy, so I'm biased in favor. But I think that for this enormous and unique property — certainly one of the last great places left undeveloped in Michigan — to come on the market just now is an opportunity that simply cannot be squandered.

If you'd like to support what we're trying to do, please write the Nature Conservancy at 101 East Grand River, Lansing, MI 48906. Or you can call at (517) 916-0300 or email at tnc.org.

Phil Power is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2206 or at ppower@homecomm.net.



Julie Brown

# Harwell deserves best in retirement years

The accolades were expected Sunday during Ernie Harwell Day at Comerica Park.

One surprise for me was the Hall of Fame broadcaster's mention that he had a childhood speech impediment. As the longtime voice of the Detroit Tigers, Harwell, retiring this season, has done just fine.

Players from both the Detroit Tigers and Kansas City Royals lined the field as Farmington Hills resident Harwell was saluted by a series of speakers. He was driven around the field in a red Thunderbird as Tina Turner's rendition of "Simply the Best" played.

"This hasn't been the best of seasons for the Tigers, but Harwell's retirement reminds many of just how rich the team's history is. Michigan native Dale Petrosky, president of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., recalled how he and his brothers would listen to broadcasts with radios under their pillows at night.

"The one thing that's constant in 42 years of Detroit Tigers baseball is Ernie Harwell," said Petrosky, a Cherry Hill High School graduate. He described the great marriage of baseball and radio, adding that Harwell is the most talented, thoughtful and well-rounded of the broadcasters.

"Ernie Harwell has taught us how to live and how to give," he said.

Tiger great Al Kaline, who has also worked as a broadcaster, said knowing Harwell was the highlight of his career. "He is a true friend."

Kaline told how Harwell is kind to all. "The reason is simple. That's just the way Ernie is." Fans were quick to applaud Harwell, his wife, Lulu, and their family on Sunday. Master of ceremonies Frank Beckmann pointed to four outfield banners holding 40,000 messages for Harwell from fans.

"You get to take them home and put them up in the backyard," Beckmann said.

Harwell, inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981, is the only broadcaster involved in a trade.

He was traded in 1948 for a catcher, and met that former player for the first time at Sunday's ceremony.

Former colleague Paul Carey spent 19 years in the broadcast booth with Harwell. "I can tell you he is an amazing man," Carey cited Harwell's incredible memory and way with names. "He can make everybody feel at ease in his company." Carey said Harwell could approach the Ty Cobb statue in the park and get Cobb to offer batting tips.

Harwell served in the Marine Corps during World War II and was praised Sunday by Gen. Lawrence Taylor for his efforts to defend the U.S. Constitution. "Once a Marine, always a Marine," said Taylor, noting Harwell keeps his rank of sergeant.

Also speaking was John McHale Jr., former Tigers president now working in the baseball commissioner's office. "Thanks, Ernie, God bless you and God bless Mrs. Harwell."

Lulu Harwell took ill later in the game and her husband left Comerica Park to be with her. Harwell received a number of gifts, including

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trips to sunny climes. He watched as a statue of him was unveiled by members of the Ilitch family.

"When Mike Ilitch bought the Tigers, he brought me back to be the announcer," Harwell said, a brief reference to his early 1990s firing. Harwell spent the 1992 season with the California Angels, but otherwise has been with the Tigers since 1960.

His career spans 55 years, and he decided this year to retire. On Sunday, he thanked God for the blessings of his wife and family. "Most of all, I want to thank you fans."

Harwell urged fans to bring children and grandchildren to the park to see his statue, which will live on after he's gone. It's hard to imagine the Tigers without Harwell, but the game will go on.

My first Tigers game was in the summer of 1969 against the Washington Senators, who would become the Texas Rangers. I was lucky to see a World Series game against the San Diego Padres in 1984.

In between, there were pleasant afternoons and evenings spent at Tiger Stadium and now Comerica Park. Sunday's ceremony lauding Harwell was certainly a highlight, even though the Royals won 9-3.

I've covered a couple of Harwell's speaking engagements through the years, and got his autograph on a baseball and Hall of Fame yearbook. He'll certainly be missed by my family and many other fans, but wishes are heartfelt that Harwell and his wife will enjoy their retirement years.

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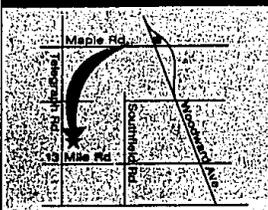


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<p><b>SOUTH LYON</b> Thursday, September 26, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Afternoon) Salem/South Lyon Dist. Library 9500 Pontiac Trail</p>	<p><b>NORTHVILLE</b> Tuesday, October 1, 2002 10:00 a.m. - Noon (Morning) Northville Senior Center 215 W. Cady</p>
<p><b>NOVI</b> Wednesday, October 2, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Afternoon) Novi Civic Center 45175 W. 10 Mile (btwn. Novi Rd. &amp; Taft)</p>	<p><b>CANTON</b> Thursday, October 3, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Afternoon) Canton Public Library 1200 S. Canton Center Rd. (not library endorsed)</p>
<p><b>CLARKSTON</b> Wednesday, October 9, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Afternoon) Independence Twp. Library 6495 Clarkston Rd. (btwn. M-15 &amp; Sashabaw)</p>	<p><b>WATERFORD</b> Tuesday, October 15, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Afternoon) Waterford Senior Center 6455 Harper</p>
<p><b>FARMINGTON</b> Thursday, October 17, 2002 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Evening) Farmington Community Library 23500 Liberty St. (1 blk. S. of Grand River)</p>	<p><b>ALL SEMINARS FREE OF CHARGE</b></p>

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