



Dear Packard Enthusiast:

Please consider this my personal invitation to you to attend Motor City Packard's Leelanau Driving Tour from September 15 through 18. This tour has been organized by Lois Porter and Sherry Rebar of our Activities Committee. Sherry and her husband Gil participated in a similar tour with their Brass and Gas Club several years ago and had so much fun that they wanted to share it with you.

**“Soft summer breezes, fresh wines and cheeses - put his ambitions at bay...”**  
**Jimmy Buffett: Son of a Sailor.**

For those of you unfamiliar with Michigan geography the Leelanau Peninsula is the “little finger” in Michigan’s mitten shaped outline and several miles northwest of Traverse City. If you have never spent time in this part of Michigan you need to experience it for yourself. The Leelanau peninsula fronts on Lake Michigan on the west side and the West Arm of Grand Traverse Bay on the east side. Parallel to the coastline is State Route M-22. This Michigan Heritage Route has long been recognized as one of the most scenic, back-county drives in the state.

M-22 passes through Glen Arbor, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Leland, Northport, Omena, Sutton’s Bay, and numerous other villages as it winds through the peninsula. Each village has its own distinct personality. Leland is also known as “Fish Town” with ferries that can take you to the Manitou Islands off the coast of the peninsula. Among the great shops and restaurants in Leland is the local general store that stays open late at night serving ice cream. Or head up to Northport, where the Great Lakes steamships used to dock and on your way you will cross the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel – halfway between the equator and the North Pole. Check out the antique shops, artist galleries or enjoy fine dining near the waterfront. Sutton’s Bay has great shopping, cute restaurants and a wonderful park and beach next to the city marina. Iron Chef Mario Battali has a home nearby as does TV star Tim Allen.



Drive up to the tip of the peninsula and you are in Leelanau State Park and the home of the wonderfully restored Grand Traverse Bay Lighthouse. Not far away is Christmas Cove Farm run by the Kilcherman’s where they sell antique or “heirloom” apples. These are breeds of apples thought to have disappeared long ago, but you can buy them today at their farm. Near Sutton’s Bay you will find at least half a dozen wineries – all have tasting rooms. One winery that stands out is Black Star Farms. Besides pressing some





of the best grapes into wine in the state, they also grow specialty fruits to distill their own spirits. And if that were not enough they also have their own creamery to produce award-winning traditional European style cheeses from pure, fresh, local cow's milk adding no color or preservatives.

**Ok, do I have you hooked yet?**

I've mentioned great country roads, quaint villages along the way, superb restaurants, fresh fruit and vegetable stands. What more could you ask for? This is the heart of the Great Lakes and you do not want to miss this tour. This would be a great spot to bring your family, friends or grandkids.

Go to our web site, [www.motorcitypackards.com](http://www.motorcitypackards.com) and under EVENTS on the right side of the page you need to click onto Leelanau Peninsula Tour for a meet schedule and registration form.

My wife, Joan, and I spent a week last summer on the Leelanau Peninsula. I think this will be a great tour and I encourage you to sign up now. Our host hotel is the Leelanau Sands Casino and it is located about 3 miles north of Sutton's Bay, MI. Ask for the Packard Club room rate. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely, Roger Luksik  
Executive Director, Motor City Packards

