

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## MT. ALBION TOUR & CHAPEL DEDICATION TO DONNA RODDEN



On Saturday, May 31 beginning at 3:00 p.m. the Mt. Albion Cemetery Chapel will be dedicated to the late Donna Rodden, Mayor of Albion 1973-1984. Following the ceremony at the chapel, Neil Johnson, Village of Albion Historian and C.W. Lattin, County Historian will co-conduct a guided walking tour of Mt. Albion from the chapel to Donna Rodden's grave site in the western portion of Mt. Albion.

The Friends of Mt. Albion Cemetery extend a cordial welcome to everyone for this event. It was through the Friends group that the idea of dedicating the chapel to Donna Rodden was initiated by Harold Breuilly who presented it to the Albion Village Board with their approval.

With the dedication, will be the presentation of the newly restored stained glass window in the chapel. Here emblazoned on the stained glass, will be the memorial inscription to Donna Rodden. A contract for this work was let to John Robert Lord of Waterloo, N.Y.

The Friends of Mt. Albion Cemetery was established around two years ago with the first goal of restoring the badly vandalized window in the chapel. Through many private donations, some contributions as a result of previous cemetery tours, enough money was raised to complete the project by the desired date. However, there is a great deal of work which must still be undertaken in order to maintain the chapel. Masonry pointing, roof repair and interior decorating remain as pro-

jects for the future. The Friends of Mt. Albion Cemetery will need your continued support.

Donna Rodden was an inspiration to all who took an interest in Mt. Albion. During her time as Mayor three major projects were undertaken through her inspiring leadership and support. In 1974 through her support of local youth, the "Save the Tower" project was commenced. In 1978 Mt. Albion Cemetery was included on the National Register of Historic Places. Robert Hoffman vividly recalls with admiration, her supportiveness in the endeavor. In 1983 the Lily Pond was dedicated after having been restored. This was the one thing she truly wanted to see finished. It was also through her efforts that road signs were erected in Mt. Albion.

As the inscription on the window indicates, she was "A Devotee of Mt. Albion, it's Lore and Beauty." Donna was indeed a catalyst and because of her, others were moved to pursue causes which were a benefit to all. She was very proud of our region and all it has to offer. Yet, she recognized there was always more to be done. She herself, was involved in many causes and organizations and will always be fondly remembered by those whom she inspired.

Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime; therefore, we are saved by hope.

---Reinhold Niebuhr