



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lisa J. L. Hart Appointed Branch President of
Merchants Bank's East Thetford Office**

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT –Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President for Merchants Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of Lisa J.L. Hart to the position of Branch President for Merchants' East Thetford office.

Hart has served as Branch President for the Groton office of the bank since November 2006. She will assume her new responsibilities in East Thetford on January 2, 2009. She will lead a team that includes: Patricia Blake, Susan Illsley, Michael Dana and Rhonda Hay.

Hart has more than 10 years of banking experience. She resides in Groton with her husband Steve and two daughters. "I look forward to my new leadership role within Merchants Bank and to continuing a strong service commitment to some wonderful communities in the Upper Valley," said Hart.



Lisa J. L. Hart, Merchants Bank, East Thetford Branch President

Vermont Matters.[®] Merchants Bank strives to provide funding to support organizations with programs and services throughout Vermont that help meet basic needs; advance environmental initiatives, energy efficiency and awareness; and promote community enrichment through local sports related initiatives. The continuing mission of Merchants Bank is to provide Vermonters with a state-wide community bank that blends a strong technology platform with a genuine appreciation for local markets. Merchants Bank fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 36 community bank offices and 44 ATMs throughout Vermont, Personal Bankers dedicated to top-quality customer service and streamlined

solutions, including: Personal Banking with *CashRewards* Checkingsm, Free Checking for Life[®], a low-cost Money Market Account, Free Online Banking and Bill Pay, Overdraft Coverage, Direct Deposit, Free Debit Card, and Free Automated Phone Banking; Business Banking with Rewards Checking for Business, Business Online Banking and Bill Pay, Business Lines of Credit and Merchant Card Processing; Small Business Loans; Health Savings Accounts; Credit Cards; Flexible Certificates of Deposit; Vehicle Loans; Home Equity Credit; and Home Mortgages. Visit **mbvt.com** for more information. Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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