



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Merchants Bank 150 Races into Town!

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT –Thomas S. Leavitt, Senior Vice President of Retail Banking for Merchants Bank announced a successful Merchants Bank 150 day of racing. Though the original May 1 date was preceded by press coverage and a hugely popular downtown car show in Barre, rain forced a postponement to May 15. On May 15, the event took place with relatively full stands throughout the event, despite some rainy weather and a four-hour late start.

“The rain did not deter the Merchants Bank die-hards! They remained faithful and stayed through the weather delays. Motor sports fans in Vermont are among the most loyal anywhere and it was evident at the *Nation's Site of Excitement* on Sunday,” commented Leavitt.

Merchants Bank Barre Branch President, Terry Bessette and her volunteers did a spectacular job setting-up for the event. Paula Shea and Eleanor Taylor worked diligently at trackside until the night's final event.



The # 6 Ford Taurus, powered by Cris Michaud of Northfield, made a strong charge, starting 10th on the field, moving to second with 20 laps to go, and finishing a very tight third behind winner Dave Pembroke and runner-up Brent Dragon. Michaud had entered

the event as reigning *King of the Road* for 2004, and is also leading the *American Canadian Tour* competition after winning the season-opener on Friday, May 6 in Lee, New Hampshire.

“Dave is a fine champion and Brent is getting closer all the time to taking our checkered flag on top,” said Leavitt.

The event day turned out to be longer than usual with the delays.

“The 7th Annual Merchants Bank 150 may have been our longest, but it will be remembered as another winning day in what has become one of the most recognized traditions in the New England motor sports world. I am very grateful for our team's commitment,” said Leavitt.

For more information log on to www.thunderroadspeedbowl.com.

The continuing mission of Merchants Bank is to provide Vermonters with a true community bank. It fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 35 bank offices throughout Vermont, employees dedicated to quality customer service and the LYNX family of products: Free Checking for Life[®], MoneyLYNX[®] Money Market Account, TimeLYNX[®] Certificate of Deposit, HomeLYNX[®] Home Equity Line of Credit, RealLYNX[®] Residential Mortgages, CommerceLYNX[®] Business Banking Services, eLYNX[®] Online Banking and PhoneLYNXSM Automated Phone Banking. For more information about Merchants Bank visit the website at www.mbyt.com. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.