



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Bruce Bernier Joins Merchants Bank as Corporate Banking Officer**

*SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT*—Geoffrey R. Hesslink, Senior Vice President of Merchants Bank announced the appointment of Bruce Bernier as Corporate Banking Officer.

Bernier has extensive commercial banking and credit experience, having worked with the FDIC and several local banks in credit and underwriting, loan review, problem assets and commercial lending.

Bruce will maintain offices at the Merchants Bank Kennedy Drive and Barre offices, and will work alongside Corporate Banking Administrator Robin Miller.



**Bruce Bernier**

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. It 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 products: FreedomLYNX<sup>®</sup> Banking, which consists of Free Checking for Life<sup>®</sup>, a low-cost Money Market Account, Free Online Banking and Bill Pay, Overdraft Coverage, Direct Deposit, Free Debit Card and Free Automated Phone Banking; TimeLYNX<sup>®</sup> Flexible Certificates of Deposit; AutoLYNX<sup>SM</sup> Vehicle Loans; HomeLYNX<sup>®</sup> Home Equity Loans and Lines of Credit; RealLYNX<sup>®</sup> Residential Mortgages; CommerceLYNX<sup>®</sup> Business Banking; and Q-LYNX Quick Decision Business Loans. For more information about Merchants Bank, visit [mbvt.com](http://mbvt.com). Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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