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Contact

Tara Perkins, Director of Public Relations, PostScript, Inc.
444 South Union Street, Burlington, VT 05401
802.863.2568, ext. 13 / tara@postscriptinc.com

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

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT—Thomas S. Leavitt, Senior Vice President, Retail Banking for Merchants Bank announced the appointment of Lisa J.L. Hart to the position of Branch President of the Groton office. Effective November 6, Hart succeeded Lou Chase, who was appointed Branch President of Merchants Bank's White River Junction office.

Hart commenced work with Merchants Bank in 1999 as a Teller/Customer Representative in Groton, where she learned and skillfully applied competencies in all elements of branch operations. She has helped grow her market through exceptional customer service and knowledge of Merchants Bank's programs. Hart served as interim Branch President in the Groton office from May through October 2004, during a time of transition. She earned lending authority and was promoted to Personal Banker/Lender this year.

Hart was raised and attended high school in Millis, Massachusetts. She was a student at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, earning an Associates Degree in Retail Management. Hart served in retail store management in Florida; Berlin and South Burlington, Vermont; before working two years for Citizens Bank in Hanover, New Hampshire.

"This is a well-deserved opportunity for Lisa to join the ranks of our outstanding branch leadership group," commented Leavitt.

"I look forward to focusing my leadership skills in the Groton market," said Hart.



Lisa J.L. Hart

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 36 bank offices and 43 ATMs throughout Vermont, personal bankers dedicated to top-quality customer service, and streamlined products: FreedomLYNX[®] Banking which consists of Free Checking for Life[®], a Money Market Account, Free Online Banking and Bill Pay, Overdraft Coverage, Direct Deposit, a Free Debit Card and Free Automated Phone Banking; TimeLYNX[®] Certificates of Deposit; HomeLYNX[®] Home Equity Loans; RealLYNX[®] Residential Mortgages and CommerceLYNX[®] Business Banking. For more information about Merchants Bank, visit mbvt.com. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.