

## **HAND AND STONE MASSAGE SPA**

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **HAND AND STONE MASSAGE SPA EXPANDS INTO CANADA**

(Toronto, ON)---Hand and Stone Massage Spa, a spa concept offering convenient, affordable, top-quality massage services to the masses, will open its first Canadian outpost in early 2009.

Siblings Brett and Gigi Harding will serve as the master licensees responsible for debuting the Hand and Stone brand in Canada. They are no strangers to entrepreneurship, as business is in their blood: Their great-grandfather founded cardboard display manufacturer H. Harding and Son in the mid-1900s and the family has followed in those entrepreneurial footsteps, as Brett and Gigi currently own over 70 Kwik Kopy locations throughout the country and have both worked abroad with the brand for a number of years. With their proven track record, the brother-and-sister team was certain they could find success in another industry and began searching for a concept that not only would fill a much-needed niche but also allow them room to grow like they did with Kwik Kopy. When they came across Hand and Stone, Brett and Gigi felt it was exactly what they were looking for.

“We saw a definite need for affordable massage services throughout Canada and Hand and Stone was positioned to offer just that in a big way,” said Gigi, 42. “With our over 20 years of experience with Kwik Kopy, Brett and I knew we could apply that experience successfully to the right concept and Hand and Stone was definitely that concept for us.”

Founded in 2004 by John Marco, Toms River, New Jersey-based Hand and Stone Massage Spas offers high quality, convenient and affordable massage spa services under one roof. Walk-in visits, scheduled appointments and yearly membership programs allow clients to tailor the experience to their busy schedules and take advantage of the spa's 3,000 available monthly massage hours. By the end of 2008, the company expects to have 100 locations under

development. Brett and Gigi will play an integral role in this expansion: The pair hopes to develop a minimum of 50 spas from Newfoundland to Vancouver over the next 10 years and are currently seeking franchisees to open future spas.

“As the population age and maintain and even exceed its high level of activity, people are going to need somewhere where they can go to de-stress without breaking the bank and without compromising quality,” said Gigi. “Brett and I are hoping to expand this mentality throughout Canada with Hand and Stone and give local residents an excuse to literally sit back and relax.”

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