



Press Release

## 1st Quarter ended March 31, 2003

April 25, 2003

NYSE SYMBOL - FVH  
TSE SYMBOL - FHV.A

*Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars,  
except share and per share amounts*

<i>Presented in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (unaudited)</i>	Quarter ended March 31,	
	2003	2002
Revenue	\$160,851	\$70,517
Expenses	\$147,954	\$67,911
Net profit	\$7,487	\$1,632
Basic earnings per share	\$0.59	\$0.13
Diluted earnings per share	\$0.49	\$0.13
Book value per share	\$20.31	\$19.62
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	12,717,054	12,542,228
Actual number of Class A non-voting and Class B shares outstanding	12,788,118	12,578,947

Fahnestock Viner Holdings Inc. reported net profit of U.S.\$7,487,000 or \$0.59 per share for the first quarter of 2003, an increase of 359% in net profit when compared to U.S.\$1,632,000 or \$0.13 per share in the first quarter of 2002. Revenue for the first quarter of 2003 was U.S. \$160,851,000, an increase of 128% compared to revenue of U.S. \$70,517,000 in the first quarter of 2002. At March 31, 2003, shareholders' equity was approximately U.S. \$259,759,000 and book value per share was U.S. \$20.31

compared to shareholders' equity of U.S. \$246,743,000 and book value per share of U.S. \$19.62 at March 31, 2002.

The results of the first quarter of 2003 reflect the changed face of the Company after the acquisition on January 3, 2003 of the Oppenheimer & Co. division (the U.S. private client business of CIBC World Markets). This acquisition more than doubled the Company's private client presence, adding approximately 620 financial consultants in 18 offices, at closing. The aggregate purchase price was approximately U.S. \$241 million. The Company will begin self-clearing the private client business in the second quarter of 2003. Until that time, CIBC is providing operational and administrative services to the Company on a transition basis. This arrangement (which was anticipated) precludes the attainment of certain operating efficiencies and cost savings that are contemplated after the conversion of the client accounts to the Company's clearing platform.

Revenue in the first quarter of 2003 included the previously announced favorable arbitration award in the amount of \$21,750,000 against another broker dealer in a raiding case involving the sales force of First of Michigan Corporation (a company acquired by Fahnestock in 1997). Expenses in the first quarter of 2003 included approximately \$5 million in litigation losses from cases arising at firms previously acquired, as well as approximately \$1.2 million in write-downs of investments. The current investment environment has increased active client litigation.

During the current quarter, business conditions remained difficult due to uncertainty about war in Iraq, a nuclear confrontation in North Korea, as well as worries about a slowing domestic economy, including anticipated poor corporate earnings results and concerns about corporate governance issues. Investors continued to favor fixed income investments over equities, as interest rates reached their lowest levels in 50 years. The end to the war in Iraq, and a reduction in the rate of rising unemployment, are likely to lead to an improved investment environment in future quarters.

As previously announced, the Company expects to close on its purchase of CIBC's U.S. Asset Management Division on May 4th. The Asset Management Division currently manages client assets totaling over U.S. \$8 billion. The business includes internally managed funds, alternative investments (including hedge funds), and third party managed individual high net worth accounts.

The weighted average number of Class A non-voting and Class B shares outstanding at March 31, 2003 was 12,717,054 compared to 12,542,228 outstanding at March 31, 2002, an increase of 1% due primarily to the exercise of employee stock options.

The Company announced today a quarterly dividend in the amount of U.S. \$0.09 per share, payable on May 23, 2003 to holders of Class A non-voting and Class B shares of record on May 9, 2003.

The Company, through its principal subsidiary, Fahnestock & Co. Inc. (including its Oppenheimer & Co. division), is a U.S. regional broker-dealer offering a full range of

services from 100 offices in 22 states and 2 foreign jurisdictions. In addition, through its subsidiary, Freedom Investments, Inc. and the BUYandHOLD division of Freedom, the Company offers online discount brokerage and dollar-based investing services.

This press release includes certain “forward-looking statements” relating to anticipated future performance. For a discussion of the factors that could cause future performance to be different than anticipated, reference is made to the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.

-0-

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

A.G. LOWENTHAL - (212) 668-8000    or    E.K. ROBERTS - (416) 322-1515