

## **Middlebury Police Department**

### **Media Release**

**09 May 2008 5:30 p.m.**

#### **SUB: Underwater Search Operations – Missing Person Investigation**

The Saranac Fire Department Technical Rescue Team and the Middlebury Fire Department wound up two full days of search operations on the Otter Creek in Middlebury this afternoon shortly after 4:00 p.m.

Submerged “strainers” and debris piles along Otter Creek from a point above the falls in Middlebury to a large eddy in Weybridge below the Central Vermont Public Service power station were searched with probes and underwater camera equipment.

Nothing relevant to the missing person investigation was located.

The United States Geological Survey stream flow monitoring station on Otter Creek in Middlebury reported conditions at 11:30 this morning that the creek was discharging at a rate of 1,860 cubic feet per second and the water level was 3.65 feet above normal. This is above normal for this time of year. However, this is an improvement over conditions as recent as Monday, May 5 which reported a discharge rate of 2,270 cubic feet per second with levels over 4 feet above normal. The creek level has gone down over 2 feet since mid- April.

In spite of improving conditions, the current impeded operations in areas of swifter water flow and depth. Plans to insert structures in the creek to divert water flow from some of the search areas today were abandoned due to the high risk. Results of imaging and searching in a number of these areas were inconclusive.

Further water search activities in the near future include resumption of aerial digital imaging of the creek and a return to active underwater searches as creek levels and flow rate drop. Precise activity is contingent on the result of debriefing and a full analysis of the findings of these two days.

Commencing late this afternoon, two canine teams from the V-K9 Scent Specific Search and Recovery Unit from Brewer, Maine and Virginia Beach, VA under the auspices of the Middlebury Police Department began ground work in the campus area. The objective of this effort is to locate a path of travel of Nicholas Garza.

Results of this effort will not be available until after debriefing this weekend.

Chief Thomas Hanley