

Middlebury Police Department

Media Release

16 May 2008

SUB: Missing Person Investigation-Nicholas Garza

The Saranac Fire Department Technical Rescue Team (SFDTRT) returned to Otter Creek today to finish their underwater search efforts in area of the downtown falls.

Water conditions were at their best so far this year*. In addition, the building that sits on the Battell bridge is undergoing renovation work that removed the floor, providing access to the river below.

Under these conditions Chief Uhler of the SFDTRT brought a small crew of technicians with him to search a flume and waterway adjacent to the falls that could not be accessed in their efforts last week. They were assisted by the Middlebury Fire Department. Central Vermont Public Service contributed to the effort by drawing down water levels below the falls, rendering underwater debris more accessible. The search included removal of logs and debris in the flume. Sections of the creek north of the falls were searched as well.

The search effort did not result in the recovery of anything related to the missing person investigation.

*Water level at 11:30 a.m. was 2.25 feet above normal with a discharge rate of 672 cubic feet per second, as compared to Friday, May 9, with a level 3.61 feet above normal with a discharge rate of 1,810 cubic feet per second, according to USGS records.

Chief Thomas Hanley