

Second body found in Granite Rail Quarry

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Posted Nov 22, 1997 at 12:01 AM

Updated Jan 11, 2011 at 1:23 AM

QUINCY -- Police divers spotted a second body yesterday near one they found late Thursday afternoon in 175-foot-deep, near-freezing water in the Granite Rail Quarry.

Acting on a tip, police began searching the quarry last Friday, according to Norfolk County District Attorney Jeffrey Locke. He has refused to comment on the identities of the bodies.

During yesterday's search, Locke met with the family of P.J. McDonough, an Irish teen-ager who disappeared more than three years ago after leaving a Dorchester bar. McDonough's relatives have said they believe his body is in the quarry.

A team of police divers discovered the first body, a woman curled into a fetal position, shortly before dusk Thursday.

Using an underwater camera, members of the Quincy Police Underwater Recovery unit spent several hours yesterday photographing murky waters in an inlet surrounded by cliffs frequented by local teenagers.

Yesterday afternoon, another body was spotted tangled in a tree limb nearby, according to John Blackadar, chief of the underwater unit.

"We were shocked that we didn't run into these people during the last search," said Blackadar, referring to the successful search for Thomas Roberts, a Quincy man who died after jumping into the quarry this summer.

The search has been complicated by the frigid deep waters and poor visibility. One diver sustained minor decompression injuries after an equipment failure Thursday.

Blackadar said it could take several days to recover the bodies.

"We can't rush this," he said. "It's too dangerous."

The parents of a 21-year-old woman who disappeared near her Dorchester home in January 1995 watched the grim search for several hours.

Karen and Charles Hammond of South Boston stood at water's edge, both hoping and fearing the woman below is their daughter, Karen.

"We're looking for closure," said Charles Hammond, who cares for Karen's two small daughters, now ages 5 and 7. "She never would have left her girls or disappeared without a phone call."

Hammond said that although police have told him that the body may not belong to Karen, he wanted to be present for the search.

"I'll keep looking for her as long as I breathe," he said.

Photo by The Associated Press

Charles and Karen Hammond, both of Boston, stand together at the edge of the Granite Quarry in Quincy yesterday as they wait for police divers to retrieve the remains of a body that the Hammonds believe might be their daughter Karen who has been missing since 1995.



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