Niagara River searched for man who jumped from Grand Island bridge

By Janice Habuda | News Staff Reporter

A helicopter is expected to resume a search of the Niagara River Tuesday for a man who jumped off the south Grand Island bridge overnight.

The search began at about 2 a.m. Tuesday, after the Erie County Sheriff's Office notified the local U.S. Coast Guard base that a man had jumped off the bridge, according to Petty Officer James Bordeleau.

There were unconfirmed reports that the man had been involved in a high-speed chase involving Town of Tonawanda police. Town police said Tuesday morning that they had no information to release.

The Coast Guard, as well as the Grand Island and Tonawanda fire departments, searched from boats, Bordeleau said.

The search area extended from the bridge to Niagara Falls, Bordeleau said. It was called off at about 5 a.m. Tuesday, and a Canadian Coast Guard helicopter is expected to take to the air Tuesday morning.

No further information was available about the subject of the search or the circumstances surrounding his jump.