

DNA tests show U.S. woman is not Montrealer Liliane Cyr's missing daughter

JESSE FEITH, POSTMEDIA NETWORK

FIRST POSTED: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2016 01:01 AM EDT | UPDATED: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2016 01:01 AM EDT



Liliane Cyr, mother of Yohanna Cyr, who went missing as a baby in 1978, poses for photograph outside her home in Montreal on Monday, August 15, 2016. After 38 years, Cyr was contacted through Facebook by a woman in the States who claimed she may be her daughter. (Dario Ayala / Montreal Gazette)

A Montreal mother's two-month wait to find out if a stranger who contacted her this summer is her long-missing daughter ended in disappointment this week.

Liliane Cyr had been contacted in early August by an American woman who said she believed she was her daughter. Yohanna Cyr, only 18 months old at the time, had been reported missing from the family's St-Laurent apartment.

The situation seemed promising — there were resemblances and enough signs to believe the woman could be her daughter. But DNA tests to determine a connection have come back negative, Cyr was informed on Tuesday.

"It's a crushing blow," said Pina Arcamone, director of the Missing Children's Network, which has worked closely with the police since the late 1980s. "There's no other way to describe it. One conversation — that one phone call — and we can't hope all over again."

Reached by the Montreal Gazette on Wednesday, Cyr asked for privacy as she dealt with the news.

Cyr, 59, had received a Facebook message this summer through a page set up to keep Yohanna's case alive.



man thought she could be Yohanna. She had found out years ago that her birth certificate was falsified. She never get straight answers from her parents about her childhood.

The two exchanged photos, and it was hard not to see the resemblance. She also had a Y-shaped birthmark on her middle finger, Cyr said, that matched one that Yohanna had.

"In my heart, I hope it's her," Cyr told the Montreal Gazette in August.

Cyr went through a similar situation 10 years ago when another woman thought she might be Yohanna, but a DNA test came back negative then, too.

Two years ago, police dug up a parking lot that used to be a wooded area after a woman claimed that on the day Yohanna disappeared, she saw Cyr's then-boyfriend leaving the apartment building with a large metal breadbox. But no body was found.

Arcamone said that when Cyr was told the results this week, she was equally worried about how the other woman would have taken it.

"She understood that she was also anxiously awaiting the news," Arcamone said. "It's devastating for everyone. We all need to pick ourselves up and tell ourselves that this isn't the end."

Cyr regularly posts messages to the Facebook page set-up to raise awareness about Yohanna's disappearance and hopes that either that her daughter or someone who knows her could come across them one day.

"We didn't get the answer we were hoping for, but they say life has its ups and downs," she wrote on Wednesday.

"We'll continue to hope that one day we'll know the truth and that wherever you are, alive or not, you'll send me love you, keep helping me hope for the best."

jfeith@postmedia.com



SPONSORED LINKS



SWIMMING POOLS DIRECT

Pools/Patio Furniture,
Hot Tubs Factory Direct
Click here for specials!

[See All Sponsored Links](#)