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Become a surrogate grandparent

Volunteer Grandparents Society of B.C.
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Vancouver
736-8271

The traditional family has changed from what it was just a mere twenty years ago. Many family units are attempting to cope with both the father and mother at work, or with the single parent at work. All children can greatly benefit from the wisdom and experience of a grandparent—in fact, we may go so far as to say that each child needs a grandparent! Would you share your time and love with a surrogate grandchild?

Volunteer Grandparents Society brings together families, who do not have grandparents in the area, with people of grandparent age. It is our aim for each volunteer grandparent's relationship to be as close and as fulfilling as possible. There is no contract, no committed hours. The commitment is to be mutually agreed.

Fact sheet

— Our objective is to match grandparents (aged 40 and over) with families who do not have natural grandparents available and whose children are between the ages of three and twelve years old. The concept is a 'family' one, i.e. as close to the natural extended family as possible.

— There is no contract, no committed hours. The commitment is to be mutually agreed.

— After application, an in-home interview is held. Police check, and references, including one from a physician are requested.

— Matches are based on compatibility, and geographic location.

— Currently there are approximately 130 matches on-going, involving about six hundred people. Included in these figures are 62 single parent families and 48 single grandparents living alone.

— Waiting for matches: as of June 1992 there are 43 single parent families and 66 two parent families with a total of 194 children.

— Volunteer Grandparents Society was created in 1973 in conjunction with the Children's Aid Society.

— Incorporated in 1974, the Society operates under the direction of a Volunteer Board.

— The Society is chiefly funded through the Provincial Ministry of Social Services. We are also an affiliate of the United Way. Corporate sponsorship for our Bus Ad Campaign was provided by B.C. Gas.

— At present there are four part-time employees,

one executive director, two counsellors and a secretary.

— There are three annual events: Christmas, Easter, and Summer Picnic.

— There is a newsletter published.

Who should apply

Volunteer Grandparents, Volunteer Grandchildren and their families are people from all walks of life and all economic brackets. What they have in common is an appreciation for close friendships with people of all ages and a desire to have a surrogate grandchild or grandparent to share some of the pleasures and special occasions of life.

Our families are single or two parent families with varying numbers of children.

“All children need a grandparent ... would you be willing to share your time and love?”

Our grandparents can have grandchildren or may never have had children. They can be couples or single people. If you have a particular kind of relationship in mind it will be taken into consideration along with geographic location and compatibility.

The process

In order for us to get to know you a little better, a counsellor will make an appointment to come to your home to meet you and give you the opportunity to talk more about your expectations of a relationship with a family.

We will compare the applications of families in your area until a likely match is found. Then we will contact you by phone and describe the family to you. If you are interested, we will suggest possible meeting times. The same is then done with the family.

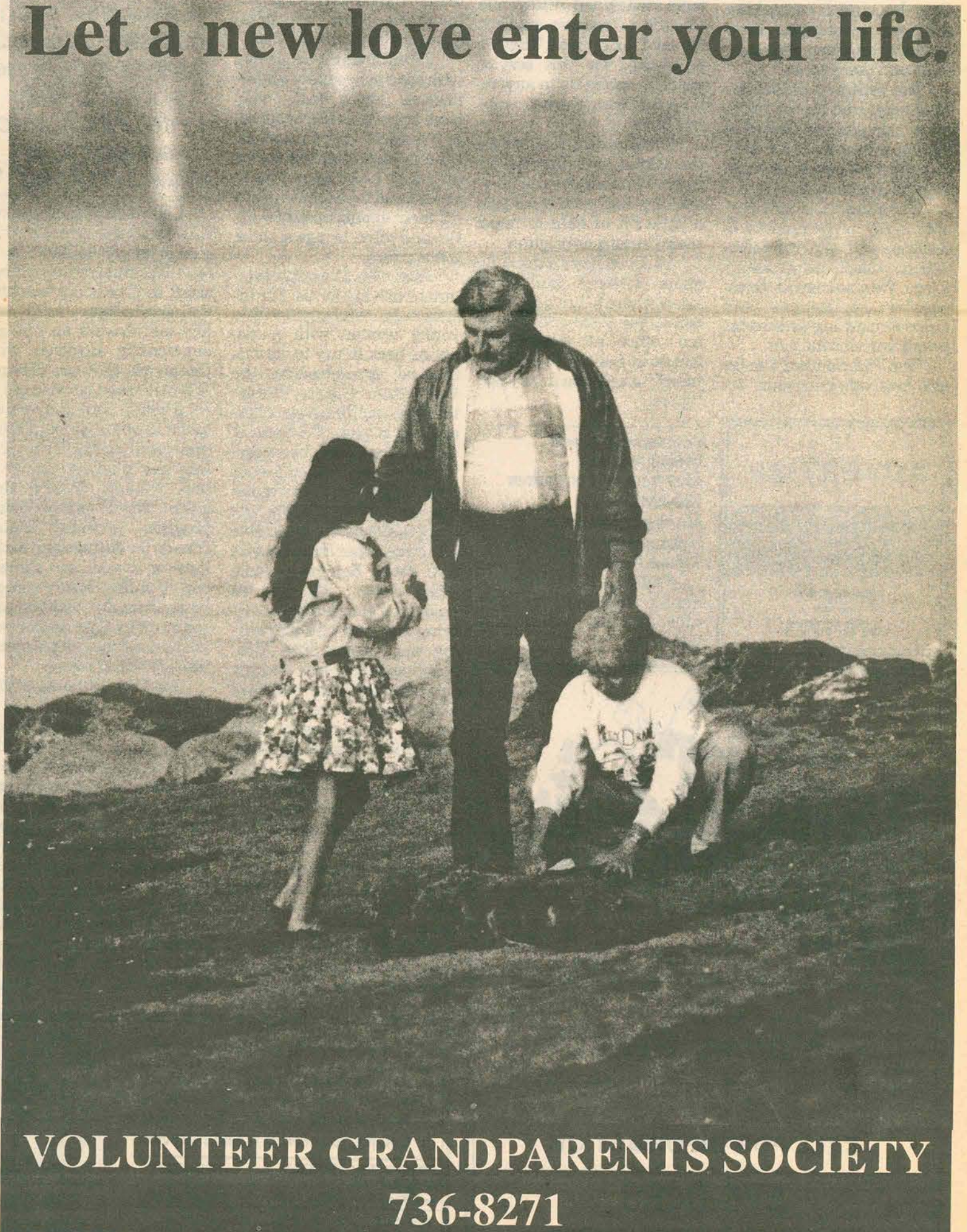
The first meeting is usually held in the family's home with the counsellor present.

It is an opportunity to break the ice and take the first step into the relationship. It is a chance to talk about time schedules, about who will take responsibility for telephoning, etc. It also gives everyone the opportunity to make an initial investigation of common likes and dislikes.

After the introduction the counsellor will be in touch on a regular basis. If the family or the grandparent are having concerns regarding the relationship or just want to talk, the counsellor is always available.

Call 736-8271 for more information.

Let a new love enter your life.



VOLUNTEER GRANDPARENTS SOCIETY

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