

# Flash!

A QUICK START TO YOUR MORNING

## Grandma for hire

### Seniors, kids benefit from matchmakers

By Sarah Davison  
Staff Reporter

Grandparents say they get all the fun but none of the responsibility.

And Muriel Timms, 71, was determined not to miss out.

"I'm fond of children," said the North Vancouver woman yesterday. "Children are a part of life."

Timms, a former teacher, has been waiting for her two children to have kids. But so far, neither has obliged.

So she signed up with the Volunteer Grandparents Society.

A testament to the joy of grandparenting, this non-profit society celebrated its 20th anniversary yesterday with a benefit tea dance at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Vancouver.

Since it was founded in 1973, the grandparents society has matched up hundreds of grandchild-less seniors with grandparent-less children.

It introduced Timms to Ian and Christine McGlynn of North Vancouver. They were looking for a grandparent for their two little girls, Fiona, 6, and Paula, 3.

"We basically felt our children were missing out in not having people around one generation older," said Christine, 35. "We only have one living blood relative. It's my mom, and she lives in England."

Fiona and Paula just love their Nana, said Christine — and Timms has truly become one of the family.

"Absolutely anything we do as a fami-



Staff photo by Rick Loughran

Muriel Timms visits 'granddaughters' Fiona (left) and Paula McGlynn.

ly, we invite Muriel," she said. "She bakes with them and cooks, reads them stories. We had hoped for a relationship between the children and Nana, but it's turned out she's become a friend of ours, too."

Fiona said she looks forward to seeing Nana. "We went to Bowen Island and she took me to see a movie. We've done

lots of things with Nana. It's quite fun."

Timms said she particularly enjoyed going to the Vancouver Children's Festival with the family.

"I've always wanted to go to that but I thought you had to have children," she said. "We've been to Maplewood Farm and let the children go on the horses."