

Bowness Historical Society Request Letter and Community Map



**Bowness Historical Society**  
[www.bownesshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.bownesshistoricalsociety.com)

January 16, 2015

The City of Calgary  
Parks Department (Mail Code #54)  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Dear Sirs

Re: Proposed name for a City-owned park in Bowness

Further to discussions relative to this matter, we enclose the following:

1. Application for Commemoration with attachments;
2. Photograph of the park from 1950 showing children from Wood's at play; and
3. Copy of the November/December issue of our community newspaper, The Bowest'ner, in which there appears an item on page 5 advising of the proposed park naming application and inviting comments. There were no comments received.

We are not able to provide consents from the nominees or their estates and have no knowledge of the whereabouts of direct descendants of George and Annie Wood. We believe that Mr. Wood's daughter, Annie Wood (who was born about 1911), left Calgary and moved to the U.S.A. We know of nobody who has had any contact with her or knowledge of whether she had children..

We would confirm that our organization will pay for the City of Calgary Parks standard sign, estimated to be approximately \$2,000.00. We have contacted and are working with our PCS with respect to sign matters.

We trust you will find the enclosed in order and await your advice as to anything further you may need at this time. If nothing further is required at this point, we await your advice as this matter proceeds.

Yours truly

*(Signature)*

Anne Campbell, Director

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## GEORGE and ANNIE WOOD



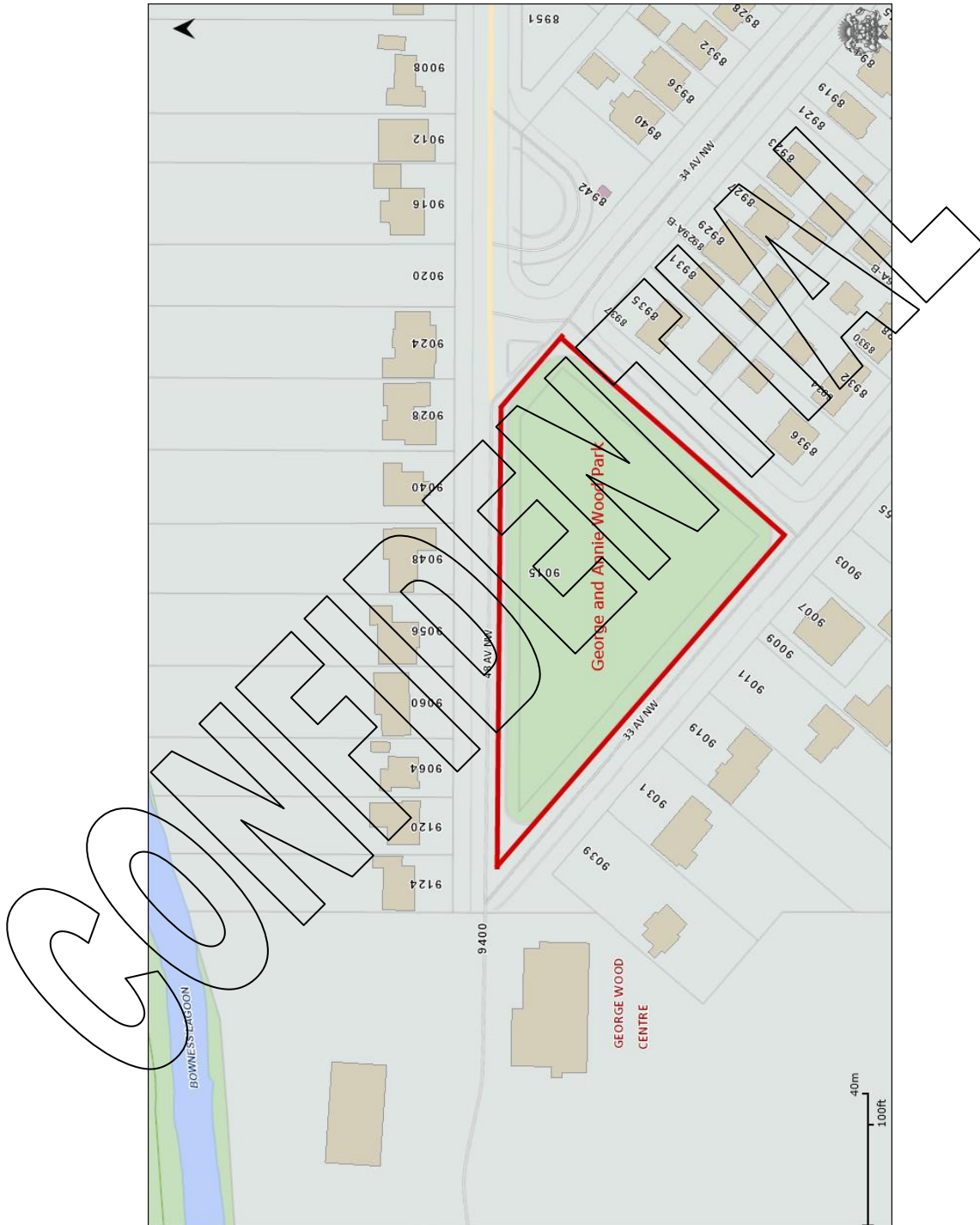
Rev. George Wood, a Scottish Presbyterian minister, was the founder of Wood's Christian Homes. He came to Canada in 1908 and settled in Melfort, Saskatchewan with his wife Elizabeth and daughter, Annie. However, in 1914 his wife was killed in a tragic accident and Rev. Wood moved to Innisfail, Alberta where he set up an orphanage in a rented house. In 1916 he married Miss Annie Jarvie, a family friend from Scotland who had been working as a social worker in Calgary. Annie quickly took over the role of 'mother' in Rev. Wood's Home. Requiring larger premises, the Home was moved to Olds in 1918 and Rev. Wood continued to preach and appeal for funds at the weekends.

In 1926, larger premises were once more required. Rev. Wood acquired the former Hextall mansion in Bowness at a bargain price, and the thirty two children were moved there. He also invited a few Calgary citizens to act on the Board of Trustees. A successful fundraising campaign in 1928 allowed for the construction of a boys' dormitory in 1930.

Tragically, Rev. Wood died in November 1928. However, the Home continued on under the supervision of his wife, Annie, assisted by the Board and friends. Annie acted as matron in the Home until her death in 1939.

For more details regarding George and Annie Wood and Wood's Christian Homes see *Bowness: Our Village in the Valley*, pp131-134, Bowness Historical Society, 2005.

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**Children from Wood's Christian Home in playground in front of the Bowness Home c. 1950**

(This playground is now part of a triangular-shaped park area bordered by 48th Avenue, 33rd Avenue and 89th Street NW.)