

Ozade Îmne

[oh-ZAH-day EEM-nay]

KANANASKIS



This is a story about the history of this place from the Îyârhe [ee-YAH-hhay]. Îyârhe means “mountain people.” We are a branch of the Sioux/Dakota/Lakota/Nakoda people, who are now called the Stoney Nakoda Nation.

Īsniyés [ish-niesh] – Thank you.

This story was shared by Chiniki Elders of the Stoney Nakoda Nation. The artwork and bench were provided by Stoney Nakoda Nation members, in a joint 2017 Canada 150 project of the Chiniki Elders Advisory Council and the Municipal District of Bighorn.

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Canada

This valley, **Ozade Îmne** [oh-ZAH-dayEEM-nay], means “V-shaped valley” and “neck of land between two lakes.” It was special to the Îyârhe Nakoda because it was such a bountiful area to harvest fruit, berries, herbs, fish and game. In summer the Stoney Nakoda people travelled south, hunting and gathering through the Highwood Pass and west along an easy trail to meet and exchange goods with the Kootenay tribes.

The waters of both the Upper and Lower Kananaskis Lakes are said to seep through the ground and join with spring water, to form the very sacred Chiniki Lake. The Îyârhe Nakoda have many important mystical and spiritual stories from the Ozade Îmne area.

Top: Gordon Wesley,
Stoney Nakoda Artist.

Bottom: Nyssa Tom-Stephens, Stoney
Nakoda Youth, Grade 6, June 2017.

