

Tae Gūh They Hunch

[tae GŪH they hunch]

DEAD MAN'S FLATS



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.

Īsniyēs [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

Top: Gordon Wesley,
Stoney Nakoda Artist.

Bottom: Joshua Chiniquay, Stoney
Nakoda Youth, Grade 3, June 2017.

When our grandfathers were young, the **Tae Gūh They Hunch** [tae GŪH they hunch] or Dead Man's Flats area was a prime site for hunting. Stoney hunters had always used these grounds to find the best harvest, the best game, and the ingredients for medicines to keep their Nation safe, healthy and well-fed. On this day, a Stoney brave was trying to capture a **chaba** [cha-BAH] — beaver.

The **Chaba** is very important to Stoney culture and is an important ingredient in many medicines. The hide was used for drums and the tail for food. In accordance with Stoney traditions, out of respect for animal spirits, no parts were wasted.

Parks Canada started to impose new hunting regulations on the Stoney people, making it difficult for them to feed their people. One day, against park regulations, a Stoney brave hunted and caught many **chaba** — beavers, for his community. In the midst of gutting his catch, he saw a park warden coming. The bloodied brave hid his good fortune and pretended to be dead. The brave was successful with his trick and, when the coast was clear, he made his way back to Morley with his bounty.

