



# July 2026

## Former local, Author Bernadette Shea, chronicles an unforgettable Newfoundland Adventure!

*by Dolly Gordon*

Congratulations to former local, author Bernadette Shea, on the publication of her new book, *Thumbin' the Rock*, a remarkable accomplishment that represents years of dedication, determination and a true labour of love.

Raised in Onaping on Gill Street, graduated from Levack District High School, sister to Shirley, Bernice and Dolly.

*(Not me Dolly - Yes there were 2 of us growing up in the townsite)*

Bernadette says "I was so blessed to have grown up in Onaping. I lived at Moser's Ski Hill in the Winter and Windy Lake in the Summer. The world has changed but there will never be another Onaping . It lives in my heart and head and always will."



"I rode my bike everywhere and was free as a bird. I think that may have alot to do with my thirst for adventure. It started on that bike... going anywhere I wanted. No Fear!"

Let's get back to the book..... 'Thumbin' the Rock' recounts an extraordinary 14 day adventure that Bernadette and her sister Dolly embarked on in September of 2012. At the ages of 60 and 72, the sisters set out to hitch hike across the island of Newfoundland with little more than confidence, curiosity and a shared passion for adventure.

Readers will laugh, reflect and feel as though they are travelling right along side the girls, sharing the excitement, uncertainty and joys that come with embracing the unknown! Along they way they meet a colourful cast of unforgettable people whose stories are woven throughout the pages.

*continued inside...*

ONAPING FALLS NEWS





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Onaping Falls News July 2026



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### Artists of the Month

**Taina Dellaire**

**& Angelina Chevrier**

in the Levaack Onaping Library  
for the month of **July!**



The Onaping Falls Art Club studio is located in the Onaping Community Centre. Contact us, drop in to see what we do, and maybe become a member!

At present, artists meet at the studio on Mondays and Thursdays. Other times, days or evenings can be scheduled to accommodate you if desired! Don't forget to check out our Facebook page!

*Watch for our September Art Show!*

## The Onaping Falls Art Club News

### Contact Information

President: Janice Farrow 705-919-5971

Vice President: Lucie Mainville 705-988-6355

Treasurer: Elise Charron 705-923-0094

Facebook page: "The Onaping Falls Art Club"

gmail: theonapingfallsartclub@gmail.com

### Art Display at Summerfest

The art club's Summerfest Art Show at the Leisure Centre was a great success and enjoyed by all!

Many thanks are given to all members of the community who took the time to view our art. Without you there would be no show! Also, thanks to all members who submitted art for display, created posters and title cards, set up and cleaned up after the show, donated paintings, gave up their time to be present at this two day event and helped in any way. What a great team!

And many thanks to Tammy Amyotte of An Added Touch for table coverings and Carrie Morin for the invitation!

*A painting is music you can see and music is a painting you can hear!*

## Author, Bernadette Shea continued...

*by Dolly Gordon*

The book includes a collection of full colour photos from the trip bringing many of the places, people and memories vividly to life.

Doesn't it sound like a wonderful summer read?

Who knows ....maybe it will strike up a road trip of your own??

Now we will get back to Bernadette!

We reminisced of our beloved Onaping via Facebook Messenger.

I remember where the Shea's lived and spent many days hanging from the 'Monkey Bars' across the street from their house as a kid.

The Shea's moved here in 1957 and her Dad started working at Falconbridge Nickel Mines. "Everyone had a home, work, food a plenty and security.

I try to get back every Summer" says Bernadette.

In the past 70 odd years Bernadette's adventures has had her married a few times with two children.

"My greatest blessing by far" she admits!

She went back to school at the age of 50 and studied Cooking. Then she took a Home Care program and enjoyed a career after that in Home Care.

Bernadette met her now husband Brian while skinning a dead Muskrat at a Trappers Convention.

It was 'Love at First Sight" and they have been together for 20 years. ( I love a good Love Story!)

Our conversation thread ended with Bernadette saying "And now we have come full circle and I

am so happy to be sharing this book 'Thumbin' the Rock' and my love of Onaping with you!"

Thank You to Bernadette for sharing her life journey from Onaping to Cape Breton.

I hope you all enjoyed this story and will go out and buy the book or order it today!



**You can buy the book on Amazon.ca and Chapters online in paperback or Kindle version.**



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# Dorothy Godin

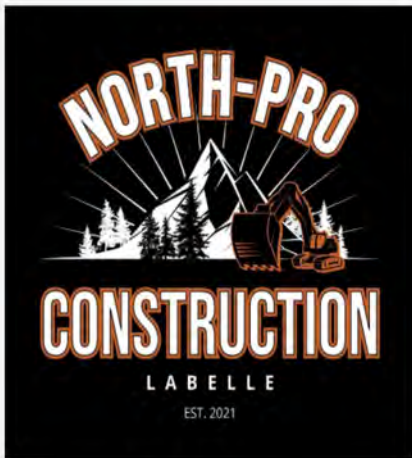
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# Concern for Our Community

## THE FUTURE OF LEVACK PUBLIC SCHOOL MATTERS

### To all those who care about the communities in Onaping Falls and Cartier,

The Ministry of Education is reviewing an application to move forward with the partial demolition of Levack Public School (LPS). The plan is to tear down the wing containing several classrooms and the day care.

This decision was originally put forth in the 2016-17 school year and approved by the Rainbow District School Board (RDSB) of Trustees (see the following link for further information:

<https://www.rainbowschools.ca/board/accommodation-reviews/valley-north/>).

It is incomprehensible and impractical to implement such drastic action based on information that is over a decade old. This disservice to our citizens is further compounded by the fact the world and our communities have changed drastically in the last decade, particularly with soaring housing prices and the completely altered economic landscape.

### A POSSIBLE SOLUTION

Additionally, the local French-public board, Conseil scolaire du Grand Nord (CSGN) has been open to exploring the possibility of implementing a French-public program out here.

The following list of examples demonstrates school boards sharing school facilities is not new or uncommon, and the province has recently provided millions of dollars in funding for a similar venture in London:

- **Chelmsford:** École publique Pavillon-de-l'Avenir (CSGN) and Chelmsford Valley District Composite School (RDSB)
- **Markstay-Warren:** St. Mark Catholic Elementary School (Sudbury District Catholic School Board) and École publique Camille-Perron (CSGN)
- **Espanola:** École catholique La Renaissance (Conseil scolaire catholique Nouvelon) and Sacred Heart Catholic School (Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board)
- **Announced April 2026:** millions of dollars in new funding in the London area for a joint-use elementary school site for the Thames Valley District School Board and Conseil scolaire Viamonde, consisting of:
  - \$22.2 million for a new Talbotville Elementary School for 412 students and 49 licensed childcare spaces
  - \$15.6 million for the new École élémentaire publique St. Thomas for 262 students with 49 licensed childcare spaces

### MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

If you do not support the partial demolition of LPS, please consider emailing the following:

- ✉ Minister of Education Paul Calandra – [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)
- 👤 Nickelbelt MPP France Gélinas
- ✉ RDSB Chair David Farrow – [farrowd@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:farrowd@rainbowschools.ca)
- ✉ Area 2 Trustee Anita Gibson – [gibsona@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:gibsona@rainbowschools.ca)

Please request the immediate halt to the partial demolition, and/or support for sharing the facility between school boards to better serve our growing young communities.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Follow the Facebook group SOS – Save Our (Levack Public) School and/or email [tilahnalampi@outlook.com](mailto:tilahnalampi@outlook.com)



The future of Levack Public School is about more than a building – it's about our children, our families, and the strength of our communities. Let's work together to ensure every option is considered.



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For information on the Onaping Falls News you can text Dolly at 705-662-9095 or email to [justdolly@persona.ca](mailto:justdolly@persona.ca). We welcome community interest information ie: birthday, anniversaries and other fun stories about our communities.

**COMMUNITY ACTIONS NETWORKS  
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Come and join your community leaders!!



Follow their Facebook page for information and meeting updates.

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by Dally Gordon

# The Graduates from ONAPING FALLS

I reached out on social media asking parents to send me their Graduates!! Here are some of the responses and our amazing youth setting out to conquer their next chapter !



*Congratulations to Kameron Goudreau of Dowling who graduated from ESC Champlain . He received the Mino Bimaadiziwin Award for being a proud indigenous and practicing his culture. Kameron will enter the workforce with Mattagami Metals.*

*Congratulations to Ella Kurtis of Levack. She graduated from Bishop Carter and received the Lieutenant Governors Community Volunteer Award, Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 503 Award and the Mackenzie Rooney Memorial Award. Ella will be attending Laurentian University in the Fall in a Business and Marketing program.*





# CONGRATS 2026 GRADUATES

## The Graduates from ONAPING FALLS

•• PAGE 2 ••  
by Dolly Gordon

*Congratulations to Austin Kurtis of Levack who is 'Stepping up' to Grade 7 from Larchwood Public School to Jr. Highschool at Bishop Alexander Carter in September*



*Congratulations to Michael Loranger of Cartier who graduated from Levack Public School. Michael has been accepted to Sudbury Secondary Schools Media Arts program.*

*Congratulations to Logan Laufman of Levack who graduated from Levack Public School. Logan will attend Chelmsford Valley District Composite School in September.*





*Congratulations to Tristan Larose from Dowling who graduated from Ecole Secondaire Champlain. Tristans future plans are to enter the military or explore a career in Diamond Drilling.*

*The Graduates*  
from  
**ONAPING FALLS**

•• PAGE 3 ••

*by Dally Jordan*



*Congratulations to Carsyn Duguay from Levack who graduated from Bishop A.C. Carsyn will enter the workforce this summer in Construction and decide what he wants to do in the Fall.*



*Congratulations to Lucas Morin from Onaping. He graduated from Chelmsford Valley District Composite School and received the Onaping Falls Recreation Committee Award and Community Service Award. Lucas will be attending Cambrian College in January for Computer Systems Technology - Security.*

*Lucas is pictured on the left with CVDCS Principal Patrick Hopkin.*



*Congratulations to Tiia Peura who graduated from Lockerby Composite. Tiia will attend Laurentian University in the Fall for concurrent Ed in Kinesiology.*





Congratulations to Logan Constantin of Dowling for graduating from E.S. Champlain. Logan heads to Cambrian College for pre fire fighter training with plans to join the MNR for arial waterbombing training.

*The Graduates*  
from  
**ONAPING FALLS**

• PAGE 4 •

*by Dally Jordan*

Congratulations to Kenith Badour-Powless of Levack for graduating from Levack Public School. Kenith will be attending 9th grade at Lively Secondary School.



*Classe 2026*



Congratulations to Caleb Robillard (left) of Onaping graduating from Ecole Secondeire Champlain. Caleb received an award from Diezel Repairs and will be attending College Boreal in September to become a Heavy Duty Mechanic.



It's JULY! The Levack Onaping Library **REMAINS OPEN** in the Summer! Come see us **Monday through Thursday** during the hot weather! **We are air-conditioned!** And the splash pad is just few steps away.

July means the **SUMMER READING CLUB** is happening. Special programming happens at the Levack Onaping Library on these dates! **July 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Summer Reading Club is a great way to get kids having fun while reading! Come into the library, take out books, keep track of all the books you go through and win Prizes!



**Do you have ARTS & CRAFT SUPPLIES** that you need to unload? Too much stuff and it is piling up? Please consider donating your unwanted art supplies to the Levack Onaping Library. Our **Children's Hour: Art Club with Cindy** is a fun hour of crafting for kids of all ages. During the summer, Cindy will be creating with kids on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month at 5:30 pm.

Did you know that Fishing rods can be borrowed from the library? These include a tackle box as well! Outdoor games are also available at the Levack Onaping Library. Come and borrow them for your backyard or your camping trip. Put a **Wifi Hotspot** on hold through the library and get access to the internet at camp or at home for one week, free with your library card.

Don't forget, each library card holder can take out an **Ontario Provincial Park Pass** for one week each summer! First come first served! These are good for ANY provincial park!

Hope to see you soon!

You can find Martha at the Levack Onaping Library in the Onaping Community Centre making sure the freezies are stocked up.  
The Levack Onaping Library is open Mon 9-2 Tue 2-7 Wed 10-2 Thu 2-7 (Closed Saturdays in summer)



**CANADA DAY**  
**July 1, 2026**  
**Windy/Ministic Sports Alliance and the Onaping Golf & Beach Club**

Invite you to our Canada Day Golf Tournament and celebration raising funds for the **Onaping Falls Food bank.**

**Golf - 2 person** scramble

Starting at 5:00 p.m. with a shotgun start \$120 / team

Barbecue supper and a few prizes to follow!

First 25 teams accepted!

**Fireworks** - Starts at dusk approximately at 10:00 p.m.

**Any non golfers, general public are welcome to attend the fireworks, admission is a non perishable food (unopened) or cash donation!**

# SPLASH PADS OPEN!

9AM TO 9PM

**SPLASH PADS ARE UNSUPERVISED AREAS.**

- PICNIC TABLES AND BENCHES AVAILABLE!
- SMALL PAVILION AREA FOR SPENDING THE DAY!
- PORTA POTTIES PROVIDED BY THE GREATER CITY OF SUBURY.
- BRING YOUR FAMILY, BRING A FRIEND AND MAKE A SPLASH!
- RELAX, ENJOY AND MAKE GREAT SUMMER MEMORIES!

*Come for the fun. Stay for the day!*

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Robin

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Onaping Falls News July 2026



## France Gélinas

La députée de Nickel Belt MPP

## NICKEL BELT BULLETIN

JULY / JUILLET 2026

Hello,

Every year, the province of Ontario celebrates **Healthy Parks Healthy People** for one day in July. This year it is celebrated on **Friday July 17, 2026**. On this day, a day use permit is free in all operating Ontario Parks.

Everyone benefits from spending a day in nature. This is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of the great outdoors.

There are many parks to choose from, you can visit the following website to find them:

[ontarioparks.ca/en](https://ontarioparks.ca/en)

Here is a list of beautiful Ontario Parks that are in Nickel Belt:

- Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park
- Fairbanks Provincial Park
- French River Provincial Park
- Halfway Lake Provincial Park
- Ivanhoe Lake Provincial Park
- Killarney Provincial Park
- Spanish River Provincial Park
- Windy Lake Provincial Park

If we can help, please call us at **1-877-280-9990** or **705-969-3621**.

Until next month...

**Constituency Office**  
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Bonjour,

À chaque année, la province célèbre **Santé des parcs, santé des populations** pour un jour au mois de juillet. Cette année, c'est le **vendredi 17 juillet 2026**. Le permis de jour sera gratuit dans tous les parcs provinciaux de l'Ontario ce jour-là.

Les bénéfices de passer une journée dans la nature sont multiples. C'est une occasion idéale pour profiter du grand air.

Il y a tellement de parcs parmi lesquels choisir, pour les trouver, visiter le site web suivant :

[ontarioparks.ca/fr](https://ontarioparks.ca/fr)

Voici quelques parcs magnifiques de Nickel Belt :

- Parc provincial du lac Biscotasi
- Parc provincial Fairbanks
- Parc provincial de la Rivière des Français
- Parc provincial du lac Halfway
- Parc provincial du lac Ivanhoe
- Parc provincial Killarney
- Parc provincial de la Rivière Spanish
- Parc provincial du lac Windy

Si nous pouvons vous aider, appelez-nous au **1-877-280-9990** ou au **705-969-3621**.

Au mois prochain...



1 St. James Street, Onaping Falls, ON  
 (705) 966-2387 ~ branch503@eastlink.ca

*July 2026*  
**ONAPING FALLS**  
 Branch 503



**PORKETTA BINGO!**  
**RUNNING ALL SUMMER!**

**EVERY 2 WEEKS**  
 on **SATURDAYS**  
 FROM  
**3 PM - 5 PM**

July 11<sup>th</sup>  
 July 25<sup>th</sup>  
 August 8<sup>th</sup>  
 August 22<sup>nd</sup>

Come out and support your local legion!

**CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**  
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**BBQ & Car Wash**  
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Live Music starts at 2

**Saturday, July 18th**  
**10 to 4 pm**

**SPRING / SUMMER HOURS**  
 Effective May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**SUNDAY TO WEDNESDAY**  
**CLOSED**

THURSDAY OPEN AT 4 PM  
 FRIDAY OPEN AT 4 PM  
 SATURDAYS OPEN AT 1 PM  
 ON BINGO DAYS!  
 (May 30<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>)

EVERY OTHER SATURDAY OPEN AT 4 PM

Come out and support the Best Little Branch in the North!

Follow **Branch 503** on **Facebook** for Updates!

Legion **Onaping Falls Branch 503**  
**FUN MIXED 9-BALL POOL TOURNAMENT**  
 \$5 per player

Just show up, no registration required!

MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS WELCOME!  
**NEXT EVENT: JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> 7 P.M.**

# Your Northern Ontario Voice in Ottawa!

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 **JIM BÉLANGER**

MP | SUDBURY EAST—MANITOULIN—NICKEL BELT

3049 Highway 69 North | jim.belanger@parl.gc.ca  
Val Caron, Ontario P3N 1R8 | (705) 897-0488



July 2026

*Well, June went by fast!*

*June was an event filled month for us with our 70th Charter Anniversary Celebration on June 6th. It was an afternoon of pride for our Club. Serving the communities in Onaping Falls for the last 70 years has been an honour.*

*We had our first Annual Community Yard Sale on the weekend of Father's Day (June 20-21). This gave local residents an opportunity to come out and use a table to sell any unwanted items! Table were free! About 10 communitiy members sold items along with our Club. There was a bake sale from our Leos and a Penny Table.*

*A fun event and we look forward to next year.*

Our year end party was Western Themed and it was a blast. Many awards are presented that night but the most prestigious award is 'Lion of the Year'.

Considering the amount of community service each and every Lion does it is a hard choice but this year, the very deserving honour, went to Lion Sonja Mathiasen.

Sonja last received the award 20 years ago which shows her long standing dedication to being a LION!.

Sonja works very hard for the Club with her weekly Euchre games, her fabulous penny tables and her continuous social media work on the OF Lions Club Facebook page.

Congratulations Sonja - We appreciate you!

*So now we are in July! Many of our Lions take a little bit of time off enjoying their cottages and campsites.*

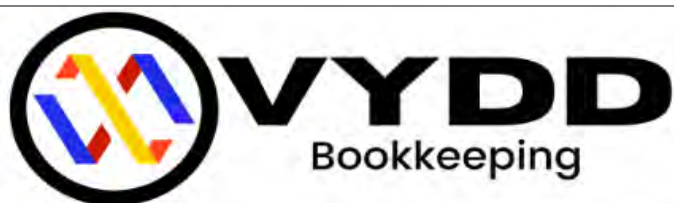
*We will have our 'JUST FOR FUN' bingo on July 20th. No money just gifts for prizes!*

*The majority of July will be spent preparing for our ANNUAL GIANT LIONS YARD SALE on August 10th.*

*So mark that on your calendar.*

*It is always a great event with some amazing yard sale finds.*

*We Serve*



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# OBSERVATION DECK

JULY 2026  
WITH ELLARD 

Condolences to the family and friends of Maria White, Rick Parker, Dave Barr, Gaetan Chretien, Cheryl Ristimaki, John Pellinin. Debbie Rapski and Ernie Marcotte.

*A big shout out to all those people and organizations collecting the 'Can Tabs'. All money raised from the tabs goes to hospitals for equipment needed such as wheel chairs etc. I have been collecting tabs for years and I would drive them down south to a drop off point. Now you can drop them off at Deluxe Hamburgers on Regent Street. It is such an easy task and leaves you with a good feeling when you give for a good cause (and have an order of those deluxe fries while you are there!).*

Lets hope the weather stays hot to reduce the crazy mosquito population  
We wish for the local farmers and gardeners to reap a great crop this year!

I remember when my wife Joanne's carrots never came up. She went to the store and bought these huge carrots and planted them in the garden. Then she would tell the kids to go get her some carrots from the garden! LOL



*Onaping Falls is so fortunate to having dedicated individuals and groups to give their time to organizing new events and ideas for our community. It keeps our kids active and engaged in things other than internet based activities.*

*On another note ...it must be close to election time as the pot holes on Onaping Drive and a few others are being filled up!*

## *Ellies Bits*

The birthstone for July is the beautiful red Ruby.

Fly the Flag proud on July 1st. Canada Day . We must be thankful in these very different times. Since our neighbour has decided that their world must change and everyone else should follow has made Canadians more powerful, prouder and stronger than ever.  
Go Canada Go.

Red Team update : Rumour has it the Red team Goalie Alex may be going to the Leafs in a blockbuster trade that may include Charonneau and one of our referees.

Remember when: There was a time that Onaping Falls had 4 public schools and a High school. We once truly thrived in Sports and Academics. Now our kids get bussed out of town and we lose alot of our hometown talent to other schools :(



**Happy Canada Day**

**Ellard**



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# Healthy Parks *Healthy People*

Parks bring us together. They inspire us.  
They keep us healthy. ♥

THIS DAY IS CELEBRATED THIS YEAR ON

**FRIDAY, JULY 17<sup>TH</sup>**



ON THIS DAY,  
A DAY-USE PERMIT IS  
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Together.*



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PROVINCIAL PARK



**HALFWAY LAKE**  
PROVINCIAL PARK  
*for free!*



ONTARIO  
PARKS

# A.Y. Jackson Lookout Activity Schedule July 2026

All participants must register for the programs each week on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Contact Carrie at (705) 918-1978 to register.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Program</u>
Friday, July 3 Saturday, July 4 Sunday, July 5	No registration required	<b><i>Become an A.Y. Jackson Junior Liaison</i></b> Complete your own Liaison Guide to become a Junior Liaison.
Friday, July 10 Saturday, July 11 Sunday, July 12	11:30 am or 2:00 pm	<b><i>Rock Painting</i></b> Create your own Rock animal painting and add it to Jackson, our rock snake.
Friday, July 17 Saturday, July 18 Sunday, July 19	11:30 am or 2:00 pm	<b><i>Beaded Wind Chimes</i></b> Get creative and explore your artistic side by crafting a beautiful wind chime.
Friday, July 24 Saturday, July 25 Sunday, July 26	11:30 am or 2:00 pm	<b><i>Tye-Dye Fun</i></b> Join our Liaison's for a fun time creating tye-dye t-shirts.
Friday, July 31 Saturday, August 1 Sunday, August 2	11:30 am or 2:00 pm	<b><i>Sand Art Painting</i></b> Create a picture using a template of your choosing with coloured sand.