



KEY CONTACTS

Nancy McMillan Event Chair



Nancy McMillan is a retired banking professional who spent 33 years in branch and private banking. She is also a breast cancer survivor who has participated in every BRIGHT Run since the first event in 2008. Her team, McMillan's Madcaps, is consistently among the top fundraising teams each year.

As the BRIGHT Run's event chair for the past 14 years, Nancy has worked hard to strengthen the event year over year. She actively seeks out new volunteers, community partners and participants.

In 2013, Nancy was named a Hamilton Woman of Distinction in recognition of her volunteer contributions to the BRIGHT Run. Cancer Care Ontario recognized Nancy with a Human Touch Award in 2019. In 2024 she received a Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Rotary Club of Hamilton AM honouring her outstanding community contributions. Most recently, in December 2025, the Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honorable Mary May Simon, awarded Nancy a Meritorious Service Decoration (MSM) in recognition of her outstanding achievement and service to the nation.

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Cornelia Schupp 2025 Survivor Spokesperson



Cornelia Schupp wants to share a message of hope with the BRIGHT Run. “There is life after breast cancer and I’m living it,” said Cornelia, our 2025 survivor spokesperson. “I want others to know that it’s going to be OK.”

Cornelia, 64, has been an Early Childhood Educator for almost 40 years. She works in Welland for a company that provides childcare in the Niagara Region. She’ll retire at the end of the summer. Originally from Galt, Cornelia attended St. Lawrence College and York

University. She moved to Dunnville after marrying her husband John in 2000. It was her own breast cancer diagnosis that drew Cornelia and John into the BRIGHT Run family.

After finding a suspicious lump, Cornelia underwent a series of tests, including an inconclusive biopsy. Ultimately, she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007. She underwent treatment through 2008, having a mastectomy, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. Her first thought at diagnosis? “Oh crap,” she said. “I did feel some resentment because I always thought of myself as robust and healthy. In a way, this made me feel like a



liar.” Between diagnosis and treatment, Cornelia and John talked through the options. As a result of those talks, Cornelia chose to take as much treatment as possible, including 10 years on Tamoxifen. During treatment, Cornelia decided to write about her experience in a book she created that focused on hair loss. “Losing your hair is so obvious and can be difficult to handle emotionally,” she said. “I wanted to express my feelings and move on. I approached it from a practical but funny perspective.” The unpublished book, titled *No More Bad Hair Days!*, is full of pictures of Cornelia at various stages of hairlessness. It finds and chronicles the advantages of hair loss with a lighthearted approach – no bad hair days or bed-head, built-in camouflage, saving money on hair products, avoiding head lice (remember, she works with kids!), the joy of having a wardrobe of hats. The book also explains the hair loss process for newbies, as well as recording the progress of the inevitable regrowth of that hair. It was also during her treatment at the Juravinski Cancer Centre (JCC) that Cornelia saw advertisements for the BRIGHT Run, which was preparing for its first ever event.

She and John attended the first few years of BRIGHT Run as participants, then they switched to volunteering. Cornelia continued to volunteer with the BRIGHT Run after John began living with dementia. He resided in a long-term care facility until he passed in May 2023. “The first year we volunteered, we were on the trails, the food tent, the silent auction and, most recently, the pink merchandise tent,” Cornelia said. “I love working with BRIGHT Run people. They are awesome!” After all this time, how does Cornelia feel about the BRIGHT Run? “I appreciate that all the money raised



by participants is used for local research,” she said. “There are no executives benefitting from the donations.” She also likes that the BRIGHT Run doesn’t carry a high fee for individuals to participate, as happens with some other similar events. “The day of the BRIGHT Run is always full of such positive energy,” Cornelia said. “Volunteering with the BRIGHT Run is a very positive experience. We always looked forward to our volunteer shifts!”

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David Balsdon BRIGHT Run Event Day Coordinator



David is a local Realtor and long-time BRIGHT Run participant. He leverages his background in marketing and the fact that he is an avid runner (4 full and 33 half marathons and counting) to help create an event that brings the community together to raise funds for this amazing cause.

Breast cancer plays a huge role in the family. David's wife Lisa is a Radiation Therapist at the Juravinski Cancer Centre and is also a breast cancer survivor. Her mother is a two-time survivor. Their oldest daughter is a Radiation Therapist in Calgary and their youngest is a Speech Pathologist in the Hamilton/Burlington area.

David has been involved in his community for many years and joined the executive committee to co-lead the event day planning and execution.

"I love everything about BRIGHT Run. Its energy is infectious, its participants are inspiring and the money we have been able to raise is impressive! I couldn't think of a better cause to give my time and energy to."

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Sandra Turner Co-ordinator Juravinski Cancer Centre PYNK Program



Sandra Turner was an oncology nurse for more than 30 years before her retirement from fulltime work in 2022. Her extensive experience with breast cancer patients equips her well for her role as co-ordinator of the cancer centre's new program for breast cancer patients under age 40.

The program, jointly funded by the BRIGHT Run and the Toronto-based Jesin-Neuberger Charitable Foundation, addresses the unique issues faced by those under age 40 who are diagnosed with breast cancer. The Juravinski Cancer Centre program is only the third of its kind in Ontario; the other two in Toronto.

A breast cancer diagnosis at any age is very difficult, but for people under 40, there are unique concerns including, but not limited to, body image issues, sexual dysfunction, accessing fertility counselling and support, and accessing genetic counselling and education in a timely way.

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Dr. Ashirbani Saha First holder of the BRIGHT Run Breast Cancer Learning Health System Chair



Dr. Ashirbani Saha is the first holder of this permanent endowed research position at McMaster University, funded jointly by the BRIGHT Run and the university.

She is a computer engineer and data scientist with particular expertise in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Her role as chair focusses on advanced analytics in breast cancer to help health-care providers in their work improving patient care and outcomes.

Dr. Saha completed her undergraduate engineering studies in India, where she was born. She earned her Master of Science degree and her PhD in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Windsor. She worked in radiology at Duke University in the US, expanding her data analytics research into healthcare. Before her appointment at McMaster, she was a staff scientist at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

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