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## Go Bald for Northvale

# Clean shaven!

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Residents take part in annual St. Baldrick's event for cancer awareness

By **Leslie Coulter**

Staff Writer | March 19 2009

**NORTHVALE** — Haircuts have never meant so much to so many people.

Dozens of residents are sporting shaved heads in the hopes of raising \$10,000 to help find a cure for childhood cancer. The cuts were hailed as part of the second annual "Go Bald for Northvale", a fundraiser for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, held at Madeleine's Petit Paris in Northvale. Organizers said the event was about community involvement and raising awareness to find a cure for this serious disease.



Staff photos by Joe Camporeale

Gaspard Caloz, owner of Madeleine's Petit Paris, gets his head shaved by Michael Harris, director of Tomorrow's Children's Institute, Mayor John Hogan and Sharon Flesche as part of 'Go Bald for Northvale.' Proceeds from the traditional St. Patrick's Day fundraiser benefit children with cancer.

"We just wanted to raise money for kids with cancer. They still don't have a

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cure and anything helps," said Francois Caloz, Madeleine's son who shaved his head during the afternoon. "You get shaved, you get sponsored. And it all goes back to the kids."

"Shavees" rounded up donations from family, friends and co-workers to get sponsored. Fliers were handed out to residents at stores, and organizers worked hard to get the word out. Last year, they raised about \$6200 and 15 heads were shaved. This year, the ante was upped and the clippers came out. Organizers said even businesses and their employees jumped on-board to support the community.

"I've seen gradual progress in the foundation since it started," said Aubrey Carpe, of Trustco Bank who shaved all three inches of his hair off. "I've seen the donations, I've seen the volunteers and the support increase. I could tell it really makes a difference and goes straight to the cause."

St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for childhood cancer research, held every St. Patrick's Day. The afternoon was full of corned beef and cabbage, Irish Soda Bread and dozens willing to stand in solidarity with children fighting cancer.



Shawn Flesche, 16, gets his head shaved by his mom, Sharon, while brother Leo, 10, feels his new buzz cut and friend Alex Fleury, 10, looks on.

"We try to do a lot of things involved with children, they're our number one cause," said Jack McTigue, president of PBA Local 233. "There is not enough money in the world that could go towards helping these kids. We just wanted to step up and do our part."

Local law enforcement from five area boroughs joined in the entourage as bagpipe melodies welcomed a procession of about 15 officers – a pair of salon chairs awaited them. Most just got clean cuts, but the Northvale Police chief said goodbye to his 25-year moustache.

One of the ladies behind the clippers was Sharon Flesche, of Headlines by Pantana in Northvale, who said she had already cut about a dozen heads by noon.

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