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JANUARY 27, 2022

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**IMPACTING YOUR  
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Mark Newman/Metroland  
Fiona Fontana (left), manager of the Reflections of You Hair Salon, along with business owner Kimberly Marotti, Plaza Barber Shop manager Lisa-Marie Hazard and barber Pat Gravina outside the shops that left Fennell Plaza in December after more than 60 years.

## SALON, BARBER SHOP MOVE RELUCTANTLY

**MARK NEWMAN**  
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Kimberly Marotti was looking forward to a bigger and brighter location at the Fennell Plaza.

The owner of the Reflections of You Hair Salon and Plaza Barber Shop was eager to relocate from the two small shops on east side of the plaza to a 1,110-square-foot space, formerly home to a pet

store, located next to the liquor store at the shopping centre at Fennell East and Upper Gage avenues.

That all changed last September when Marotti heard the for-

mer pet store was to become a cannabis outlet.

"There was no hope for us in that plaza," said Marotti, who at

See **RETIREMENT**, page 5

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# RETIREMENT PLANS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Continued from page 3

the end of December moved both businesses to 1132 Fennell East, near Upper Ottawa.

The salon and barber shop had been at Fennell Plaza for more than 60 years.

Marotti noted the leases on both shops had expired and they were on a month-to-month basis.

She said she felt it was only a matter of time before they would be evicted by property manager The Biddington Group to make room for other business expansions at the plaza, so she decided to move when space became available rather than possibly having to scramble for a location at some point in the future.

"There was no formal notice that we were out of there," Marotti said. "I was sick and tired of going month to month for two years not knowing what my future held."

Marotti said she was "strung along" for two years by the property management company into thinking she could move into the former pet store space.

An Oct. 8, 2020 email to Marotti from a Biddington associate obtained by Hamilton Community News talks about an "offer to relocate" to unit 4A, the former pet store.



Marotti said that all changed in September when she began to hear rumours that a cannabis store was destined for unit 4A.

A cannabis retail store authorization application notice has since gone up in the window of the former pet store.

"Never once did I get a call, never once did I get an email from my landlord telling me that," Marotti said. "I was disrespected."

A Sept. 23 email to Ma-

rotti from a Biddington associate states "the Landlord is in no obligation to enter into a new lease or relocating the business."

Fiona Fontana has been working at the salon the past 42 years and is the business manager.

She feels they were forced out of the plaza.

"I'm so angry," said Fontana said.

Barbershop manager Lisa-Marie Hazard said the whole matter has been dif-

ficult for everyone.

"It's really been a lot of unnecessary stress," she said.

Pat Gravina has been a barber for 57 years, the last 21 at the Plaza Barbershop.

He has chosen to retire than move to the new location.

"I feel kind of sad because I have to leave," the 82-year-old said.

Hamilton Community News has emailed The Biddington Group for com-



Mark Newman/Metroland

Left, Pat Gravina (right), longtime barber at the Plaza Barber Shop (now retired), with photos of himself from the 1960s. Right, Kimberly Marotti (seated), owner of Reflections of You Hair Salon and Plaza Barber Shop, with salon manager Fiona Fontana. The longtime business left the Fennell Plaza in December.

ment and has not received a reply.

Meanwhile, Marotti noted she said she and her husband John purchased the salon seven years ago and the barber shop five years ago as something they could enjoy in their retirement.

Marotti is a makeup artist who works in the office furniture business.

Those retirement plans have since been turned upside down.

John died in December 2018 and Marotti has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I'm not giving up," Marotti said.

*STORY BEHIND THE STORY: When Hamilton Community News learned the Reflections of You Hair Salon and Plaza Barber Shop had left the Fennell Plaza after more than 60 years, we wanted to find out more.*

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