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One stop decorating shop

They don't call it Comfi Interiors for nothing. Owner Joe Canestraro's complete home decor store has been around Milton for the past 20 years.

"We call it a one-stop decorating stop," says upbeat staff interior designer Geraldine Hesketh, who works closely with store manager, Norah Tielemans. "We've been at this location (845 Main St.E.) for two years."

Canestraro used to run the store on Bronte Street but it was strictly carpet remnants and installation only, Hesketh explains. He soon realized it was time to move onward and upward.

"We deal in a variety of carpets in all prices and qualities. We try to keep up with the trends."

Besides carpeting, the store carries the best in wallpaper, paint, laminate flooring, vinyl flooring, hardwood and ceramics. Laminate flooring, she notes, is extremely popular right now.

"It's really taking off. It's a floating floor concept that goes right on top of the old floor without the glue. It can be put on top of hardwood floors or ceramic tile. We carry the three

top brand names -- Formica, Wilson Art and Mannington. It's very resilient and works well even in an unheated cottage."

Comfi Interiors is also well known for its full service experienced installers.

Hesketh's areas of expertise is interior design and she does home consultations, taking the "headache" out of decision-making. Customers have been known to bring in photos and accessories such as cushions to help the process along.

"We enjoy what we do. I find personally, people aren't that educated on what's available out there. We hone in on their needs while covering all price points. We're also well known for our remnant packages and we do a lot of commercial work for schools and offices. Plus we're friendly -- usually!" quips Hesketh. "We have a nice atmosphere. The response has been great, we have very loyal customers and hope to grow."

To that end, and with Comfi Interiors' location across from the GO train station in mind, Hesketh jokes their motto should be, "Take the GO and shop with Joe."

She followed her dream

Owning the Dance Shoppe is the fulfillment of a childhood dream for Milton native, Ruth-Ann Hill.

"I danced since I was eight years-old and pursued training into my teen years," she says. "My favorite was jazz or lyrical dance. You really get to express yourself. When I was about 12 or 13, I thought I wanted to be a dance teacher. I dabbled in professional dancing at 18 and 19 but knew what I really wanted to do was teach."

In 1994, with her husband and family behind her, Hill took the plunge -- or should we say pirouette -- and opened the Dance Shoppe.

"It's been a great success and we've grown every year," she says. "If the client isn't having fun, we're not having fun."

Now in its fifth year at 775 Main Street, the dance studio offers tap, jazz, ballet, acro jazz and highland dance lessons taught by five tal-

ented instructors to clients three-years-old and up. On Thursday night's adults can partake in line dancing instruction as well.

Previously located at 295 Main, Hill's facility expanded from 1,200 to 5,500 sq.ft. of space when she moved to her new location.

"I love the aspect of working with children. From my own experience, I know attempting to master something and doing well is a great confidence builder. It's gratifying to see a student who is very unsure in September dance in front of their parents at the recital in June. It's a joy to see them conquer their goals. Two of our senior students will be going to university this fall with dance as their focus. It's wonderful to have a hand in someone's prospective career."

The Dance Shoppe is a family affair -- Hill's mom, Rosanne is her receptionist and her dad and husband are her caretakers and resident prop builders.

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