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## NEAT SPACES EZINE - NOVEMBER 2008

Brought to you by Wendy Hollick, Professional Organizer

This month's EZINE is presenting itself in a format unlike our previous issues. This EZINE will inform you about e-waste, what it is, why it is toxic and what we can do with our E Waste to prevent the harmful effects on our environment.

Professional Organizers encourage clients to donate or dispose of items that they no longer use or need or that are broken. For disposal we offer many solutions: sell, donate to charity, Freecycle, or recycle. Very little ends up in our landfill. Electronic gadgets are no exception.

Our mission at **NEAT SPACES** is to keep as much as we possibly can, utilizing all resources to ensure your items remain out of the landfill and are disposed of responsibly. This leads us to research our options regularly.

This month I would like to present you with information about something we all have:

### E-WASTE

According to Wikipedia, e-waste is "a waste type consisting of any broken or unwanted electrical or electronic device."

Have you ever asked yourself, "What do I do with my broken/unwanted cell phone, computer, MP3 player, speakers, stereo, VCR, DVDs, video games/machines, telephones, earphones, television...?"

Disposing of e-waste improperly leads to toxic waste in our environment. Electronic waste is of concern largely due to the toxicity and carcinogenicity of some of the substances if processed improperly

If properly treated, electronic waste is a valuable source for secondary raw materials. However, if not treated properly, it is a major source of toxins and carcinogens.

### Did you know?

Electronic waste may contain any or all of the following substances:

***Substances in bulk:*** Epoxy resins, fibre glass, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and thermosetting plastics.

***Elements in bulk:*** Lead, tin, copper, silicon, beryllium, carbon, iron and aluminium

***Elements in small amounts:*** Cadmium, mercury, thallium

***Elements in trace amounts:*** Americium, antimony, arsenic, barium, bismuth, boron, cobalt, europium, gallium, germanium, gold, indium, lithium, manganese, nickel, niobium, palladium, platinum, rhodium, ruthenium, selenium, silver, tantalum, terbium, thorium, titanium, vanadium, and yttrium.

I encourage you to take the time to watch this video as shown on CBC's The National on October 22, 2008:

[E-waste Dumping Ground](#) A dangerous underground electronics recycling industry employs China's vulnerable migrant workers. And Canadians export the raw materials to them...

So what DO we do? And what do we NOT do?

There are responsible alternatives:

1. Ask yourself: "Do I need an updated or additional phone, PDA, cell phone, etc.?"
2. Is the one you own still useable? Consider listing it on [Freecycle](#) or [Kijiji](#), where "stuff" can be offered for free or for cash - it is free to post an ad.
3. Pass the item to someone you know that could use it, before it becomes obsolete.
4. Contact [GEEP \(Global Electric Electronic Processing Inc.\)](#)

GEEP is an electronics asset management company in Barrie, Ontario, that processes excess and end of life products and equipment such as computers, monitors, cell phones, TVs, fax machines, etc. and turns them into renewable resources, secondary raw materials and reusable units to be sold in global markets. Established in 1994, predominantly as a wire chopping and lead cable operation, GEEP has expanded into the field of electronics de-manufacturing using proprietary state of the art technology. GEEP is a leading e-waste Canadian Company with sites in both Canada and the United States, with affiliations in Europe and Asia. The company is ISO 9001 and 14001 certified. Their goal is zero waste to landfill, and their motto is "Waste in... Commodities Out."

To find a responsible recycler that is not going to export your toxic electronic waste, the Basel Action Network (BAN) has a program that screens recycling companies. You can find out more about it at <http://e-stewards.org/>.

**[NEAT SPACES Professional Organizing Service](#)** helps you reduce your environmental footprint by providing you with responsible solutions for disposing of your broken and unused electronic devices and other items. To book our services,

please send an inquiry email to [neatspaces@cogeco.ca](mailto:neatspaces@cogeco.ca).

I hope you enjoyed this issue of the NEAT SPACES EZINE. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues.

If there are topics you would like to read about in future issues, please let me know!

I have sent you the NEAT SPACES EZINE because you signed up for it, or because we have corresponded before. If you do not wish to receive it, please [click here](#) and your name will be deleted immediately.

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