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NEAT SPACES EZINE - DECEMBER 2006

Brought to you by Wendy Hollick, Professional Organizer

This issue includes tips for the holiday season. I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, stress-free holiday and Best Wishes for the New Year!

****A BIG thank you to everyone who donated their winter coats to help support our coat drive for the Halton Women's Shelter. We surpassed our goal of 600 coats. Well done and THANK YOU! ****

THIS MONTH - TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

- ❄ Avoid over scheduling yourself. Pick a number: Decide how many holiday functions you'll attend.
- ❄ When gift giving, consider gift certificates for those that "have everything", such as a spa service (*hint hint to my hubby*), favourite bookstore, dinner and a movie, gym membership, Professional Organizing services, massage appointment - the possibilities are endless. A bottle of wine or favourite treat makes a clutterless gift idea too.
- ❄ Send out cards or letters by email to wish friends and family best wishes this time of year. This reduces paper and saves money spent on postage, and time. Personalize your message with a photo and get creative with the background and font.
- ❄ Instead of a full-fledged dinner, have a cocktail party or dessert party, a chili-and-tree-trimming get-together, or a cookie exchange. A scaled-down event means less expense and less stress.
- ❄ Sort and donate toys, clothing and other items in the home prior to Christmas morning so there's room for new items and your used items become another's treasure.
- ❄ Blue bin it. With the holiday season, as you all know, come lots and lots, make that tons, of excess paper in the form of newspaper inserts, flyers, and door-to-door ads. Everyone wants your business this time of year. Blue bin what does not interest you right away. Have it handy, and empty it often. This reduces the amount of paper for you to go through later.
- ❄ Do you really need another _____ ? Before you buy it, ask yourself that question. Why am I buying it? Do I need it? Where will I put it? What happens to the one(s) I already have?
- ❄ Storing bows, gift wrap, tags, tape and scissors together helps save time.
- ❄ Give back. During the holiday season (or throughout the year) donate your time and service to those less fortunate: a morning at the food bank, serving meals at a shelter, shovelling snow for others, or whatever you choose. Helping others always makes one feel good inside.
- ❄ Clean clothes: Getting caught up on laundry before the holidays hit makes getting ready to go out less stressful. Pick out clothes for you and the family the night before so everyone knows what they

are wearing and "wear" it is.



Green or red coloured bins are great for storing holiday decorations to easily identify them.



Before putting away the decorations for another year, donate the ones you no longer enjoy. You will have less to store and less to sort through next year.



Calendars - do you have yours? Transfer over to the new calendar dates you need to remember from last year, like your best friend's birthday.



Try to relax, keep a sense of humour, and enjoy your time spent with loved ones this holiday season.

NEAT SPACES gift certificates make excellent clutter less gifts!
Give the gift of organizing this Christmas.
All major credit cards accepted.

I once bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, toys not included.
~Bernard Manning

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!

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