Spring Cleaning: Give Your Unwanted Items a Second Life

With spring in the air, it's the perfect time to freshen up your home! But as you clear out closets and cupboards, what do you do with the things you no longer need? Instead of tossing them in the trash, why not find them a new home? Whether through donating, recycling, or getting creative with upcycling, there are plenty of ways to declutter responsibly while supporting the community.

Where to Take Small Household Appliances
Have an old coffee maker, kettle, or blender that's no longer working? Don't worry—there's a better option than sending it to the landfill! The **James Bay Neighbourhood Association (JBNA) Third Saturday Recycle Depot** accepts broken small household appliances and power tools on the third Saturday of every month. The Recycle Depot also accepts burnt-out light bulbs, spent batteries, and many other items. For more details on what's accepted and where to drop them off, please visit the JBNA website: jbna.org/recycle-saturday/

If your small household appliances or power tools are still in good working condition, consider donating them to the **James Bay United Thrift Shop**. Someone else might love and use what you no longer need, and your donation helps support the community. Other items in good condition, such as linens, board games, and kitchen or tableware, can also be donated to the thrift shop to benefit others in need.

What to Do with Unwanted Clothes
Sorting through your wardrobe? If you have gently used clothing, you can bring it to one of the thrift shops or consignment stores in James Bay. Your old favorites might become someone else's new treasures!

But what about clothes that are too worn to donate? Instead of throwing them away, try upcycling! Turn old t-shirts into reusable tote bags, braid distressed denim into rugs or potholders, or explore other fun DIY projects. A little creativity can go a long way in keeping waste out of landfills.

Where to Take Unwanted Books
Have books you no longer need? Instead of letting them gather dust, consider bringing them to one of the many **Little Free Libraries** around the neighbourhood. These small book-sharing stations make it easy to pass on your well-loved reads to others while picking up something new for yourself.

By choosing to donate, recycle, or upcycle, you're not just decluttering—you're making a positive impact on the environment and your community. This spring, let's clean up with purpose and give our unwanted items a second chance!