



**BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS!**

Dean and Mary Lemon of John Street show off their Christmas cactus, which so far has 65 pink and white blooms with more on the way. The mother and son are avid gardeners, but this is the first time they've seen a Christmas cactus with so many flowers.

**Flex time trial, school talks**

**MUNICIPAL DIGEST**

In an effort to give Town staff more control of their work and personal lives – which should increase productivity and morale – Council has agreed to a one-year trial of flex time and a compressed work week.

The adjusted work arrangements will allow staff, with the approval of their supervisors, to work between 7:30 am and 7 pm and to work their required hours over fewer, but longer working days.

In recommending the one-year pilot project, the staff committee that investigated the adjusted work arrangements said the changes should result in better service to the public and less absenteeism for personal reasons.

The new arrangements will not affect staff overtime and won't cost the Town any additional money.

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The Halton Board of Education, whose last budget included a \$6 million cut in

staff salaries and benefits, is now attempting to get wage concessions from its employee groups and unions.

Bargaining is underway with various unions representing 2,600 elementary and secondary schools teachers,

instructional assistants, office personnel, support staff, speech pathologists and social workers.

Sources say there is a positive tone to the talks but no agreements are expected before Christmas.

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