Twenty-five attend talk on Toronto group homes

grow, that's all we're Mentally Retarded as for the Mentally Retarded, making an appeal to in Toronto are like and Midlanders to let the Huronia Association go ahead with a proposed group home.

the ARC workshop four which to grow. They are association met with learning experiences," members of the Huronia Mr. Montagnes told the 25

"Give us a chance to Association for the well as the public. The purpose of their visit was to explain what group homes for trainable mentally retarded people what they have accomplished. A slide show was used to back them up.

"Group homes give people an opportunity On Thursday night at with some support in hard schools with hard

"The problems stem from a general lack of understanding from the referring to hold-ups in getting a zoning change in Midland to allow a group

Hugel Avenue. The slides which Mr. Montagnes showed, illustrated the different types of group homes in Toronto. People doing day to day living activities were depicted as

the group home on Hugel

Avenue. He called some

of the Planning Board's

proposed criteria "ar-

home to locate at 438

homes near group homes would drop, is misnomer. as good or as bad as the rest of the homes in the well as the schools which already about trainable mentally

the residents attend

bourhoods.

Some of the group

homes were semi-deta-

ched and all of them were

in residential neigh-

they have had more

support than opposition to

the group homes in

Toronto. He said the fear

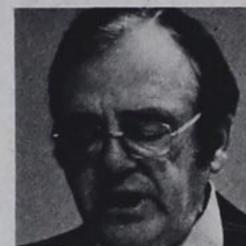
that property values on

Mr. Montagnes said

Platt

institutions like the "We will keep our house Ontario Hospital in

Orillia. Using the slides Mr. neighbourhood", he said. Montagnes pointed In Midland there is that residents living in a home environment in a community with help and support, rapidly improve. retarded people living in the community, ac- He gave the example of cording to Mr. Mon- an extremely retarded person who came from an tagnes. He said in Toronto institution home. When he the people in the homes come mainly from large arrived in the group



Ogilvie

home, he wasn't toilet trained, was self abusive and non verbal. He couldn't sit up. Now he stands erect, walks and he goes to a training centre. He is toilet trained and hasn't been self

On the average, according to Mr. Mon- Toronto Association The level of service in tagnes, the residents are only staying in the group home for six months. Slower residents might be there for a year. After the group home they move in to apartments with

another ex-resident and begin life caring for themselves. A councillor watches over them to make sure they eat properly and are making out okay. "Group homes are not uncontrolled. We welcome controls but we need access." Mr. Montagnes said.

After the slide

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explained a training



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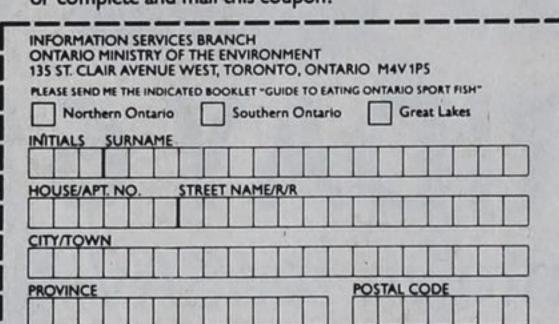
Toronto was also ex-

plained in detail.

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Council members absent

Midland council and no staffing, the number of members of Midland's Planning Board attended a slide show and talk on Association for the Mentally Retarded last Thursday at the ARC government has workshop.

Ogilvie and Alderman Richard Platt, who represent council on the Planning Board and is a member of the Huronia Association for the Mentally Retarded, showed up at the ARC building to hear the

In a letter dated April 14. John Gignac a member of the HAMR invited all members of council and the Planning Board to the presentation. For four months the Planning Board has been dealing with the problem of spot zoning 438 Hugel Avenue to allow a group home to locate there. When they make their extensive recommendations on group homes, council have to review them and vote on the issue.

At Thursday's meeting, Mr. Gignac explained to the Toronto association that Midland's Planning Board is setting down a list of criteria under which homes that are being converted to group homes must fall. These criteria include lot size, Ogilvie told the gathering square footage of floor that he was in favour of

allowable residents and

parking. Jim Montagnes. director of residential services for the Toronto Association, pointed out that the provincial stringent regulations with Deputy Reeve Bill the best interests of the residents at heart. All of the Toronto group homes meet these requirements.

> "I don't know too many group homes with a large back yard," he said answering a question from Mr. Gignac on the size of the yards. One of the problems with 438 Hugel Avenue is that its lot size does not meet the criteria suggested by members of the Planning Board.

Mr. Montagnes said that many of the Toronto homes are semi-detached with no yard space and no parking. He said this has not been a problem since the residents attend school during the day and don't drive cars. He added that Toronto's group homes have from eight to 10 residents in them. One home which was built to accommodate 24 residents, he said, doesn't have much more yard than the home on Hugel

Deputy Reeve Bill

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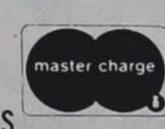
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