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NO GRANT MONEY FOR OUTDOOR POOL

Town wanted \$2.8 M
to replace park facility

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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The town's application for a \$2.8-million grant to help pay for an outdoor water park has been denied.

The municipality was notified of the federal government's decision about two or three weeks ago, according to Marc Pourvahidi, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's director of finance and treasurer.

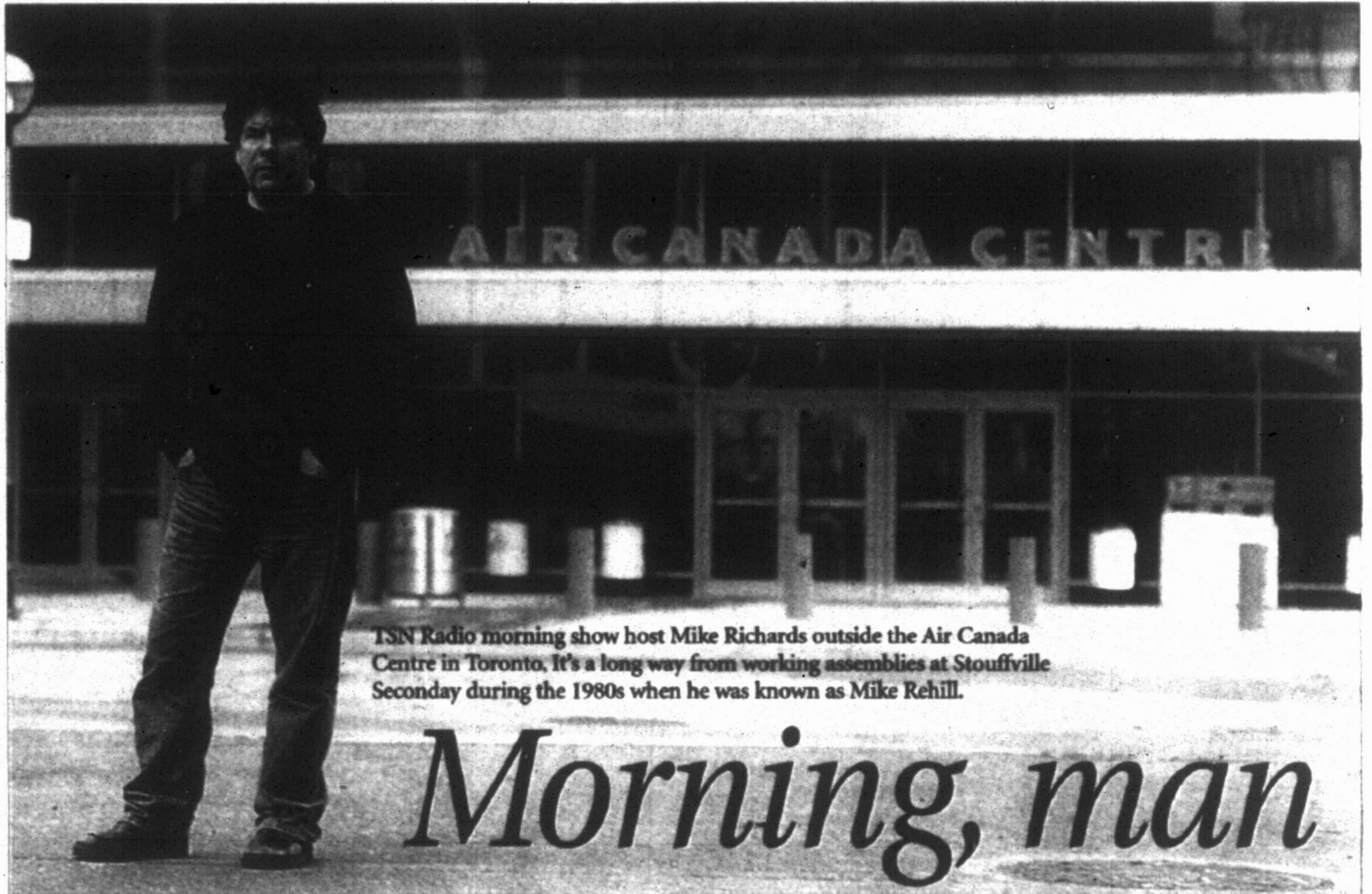
No reason was provided as to why the application was denied, Mr. Pourvahidi said, adding a formal request for a reason has been submitted.

"It may help us in the future," he said.

In February, the town applied for a \$2.8-million grant from the federal government's Enabling Accessibility Fund to help pay for a \$4.7-million water feature, which included an outdoor tank pool and water park, to be built adjacent to the Lebovic Leisure Centre in Stouffville Memorial Park.

"Because the grant was not

See **FIX**, page 9.



TSN Radio morning show host Mike Richards outside the Air Canada Centre in Toronto. It's a long way from working assemblies at Stouffville Secondary during the 1980s when he was known as Mike Rehill.

Morning, man

TSN PHOTO

BY JIM MASON
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Thirty years ago, Mike Rehill was in Stouffville Memorial Park's old wooden grandstand watching his friends play a high school fastball game.

If the game wasn't entertaining, the fast-talking teenager was.

When his ghetto blaster wasn't belting out beer commercials, he was doing a spot-on, game-long imitation of Blue Jays' announcer Jerry Howarth - for both of the fans in the stands.

Fast-forward to 2011. Mike Richards (the Rehill is gone from the stage name) is still doing a fine Mr. Howarth, albeit for a larger crowd and a six-figured salary.

The Stouffville native, now 48, is charter morning man on TSN Radio in Toronto. Six months after the AM station's launch, at CHUM's old 1050 perch, the audience is growing. There was little choice.

"When you start at zero, there's only one way...." Mr. Richards deadpans after his 5:30 to 9 a.m. shift earlier this week.

And the show, featuring send-

ups of everyone from Jose Bautista and Roberto Luongo, to Casey Kasem and ex-Sportsnet guy Peter Loubardias (reading the phone book) is not a done deal. (They're all on YouTube.)

Even Mr. Richards, who was barred from a local charity golf tournament for crossing the line, is dancing around CTV/TSN's conservative reputation. He promises to get racier as he settles in.

"Hey, on Seinfeld they didn't have the masturbation scene in the third episode," he said. "It will happen. Management have even

told me to loosen up. They know me."

Expect more sports-betting tips, too, from the guy who became an instant expert after pocketing \$21,000 on a Pro.Line ticket in Alberta.

Images of the former multi-sport star at Stouffville District Secondary School popped up more than J. Lo's this year in the GTA, on the side of buses and billboards, to TV commercials and print ads.

His show has an A list of guests.

See **'STILL'**, page 10

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