

## No need for tree permits

I agree with Fred Jesty (Jan. 23, King Township drafts a new tree preservation bylaw) in that I see no compelling reason to instigate a permit system for tree removal on private property.

Although I have only lived in King Township a short while, I have not witnessed any mass destruction of our trees by property owners that would justify a permit system. Trees have been damaged on a large scale by the recent ice storm and emerald ash borer, neither of which would have been prevented by a permit system.

Instead of creating more costly government bureaucracy, I would rather see the Township provide education and guidance on maintaining and planting trees. We need information on what types of trees to plant as replacements for damaged trees. Get the schools involved and have a yearly event where citizens and students could obtain seedlings at a reasonable cost for planting. Being proactive in this way would be much more useful than forcing citizens to buy permits they don't need and struggle through yet more layers of government micro-management.

**Earle Laycock**