

## *Two new conservation easements*

A partnership between French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust and East Pikeland Township has resulted in a Conservation Easement on a 16-acre property with 1,700 ft. of frontage on the Exceptional Value French Creek. Owned by John Massaro, the purchase of the easement with township-dedicated Open Space funds was the second project to close in 2011 through this municipal-conservancy collaboration. A public access, non-motorized trail on the Massaro parcel will create a link to township-owned land on the north side of the creek, already a popular destination for hikers, fishermen, and nature enthusiasts.



A Conservation Easement was placed on the 17-acre horse farm owned by Gus and Jan Orr on January 27, 2012. Purchased through East Pikeland Township's dedicated Open Space Fund, the Orr farm is a High Priority property on the township's list of targeted conservation projects. This acquisition closes a gap in a nearly 150 acre greenway corridor, protecting the woodlands, agricultural fields, viewsheds and tributaries to the French and Pickering Creeks. The easement is the third one in the past year to be created as a result of a partnership between French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust and the Township.

The property is adjacent to a 74 acre conserved farm, which the Trust placed under easement in 2006 and is in close proximity to other Trust easements, as well as several properties protected through West Vincent Township's Purchase of Development Rights initiative. All future development is extinguished under the terms of the easement, allowing the natural setting for a circa 1790 farmstead to remain unchanged.

Several East Pikeland conservation projects are planned for 2012, based on the success of the protection of the Latshaw Farm in January 2011 and these recent easement acquisitions.



*Gus and Jan Orr with granddaughter Aubrey admiring the protected view*