

# From Then To Now

## Lakeshore African Violet Society History

Originally Compiled by Doris Brownlie "The First 29 Years"  
Continued by Beverley Williams

1970 The Society was inaugurated on April 30 with 7 members. The President was Sylvia Richardson. Dues were \$2.00 single, \$3.00 a couple. Meetings were on the first Monday of the month. Library began with 20 copies of A.V.S.A. magazine purchased and donated by Sylvia.

1971 April 30 was the first meeting at the Lakeshore Community Centre and the meeting nights were changed to the second Friday of the month September to June. October 8 was the first "Open House". Membership increased to 18. Floyd Chrysler introduced gesneriads and hybridizing. Original By-Laws approved June 7, 1971.

1972 In April the first formal elections were held. President-Sylvia Richardson, Marguerite Favro (another charter member) Treasurer. In May the first show was held with the theme "Symphony of Violets" 40 people came and paid \$0.50 each to see the show. In June the first potluck dinner was attended by 32 people. September the Secretary Betty Chrysler resigned and Sandra Lex filled the position. At the October "Open House" Cathie Hammon and Rene Mitchell joined the Society. Sylvia became a columnist in "Chatter" on miniatures and Sandra wrote a column on variegated violets.

1973 May show "A Carousel Of Violets" and 76 people came. The President was Sandra Lex. In October the first A.V.S.A. Judging School was held and Sandra Lex, Floyd Chrysler, Sylvia Richardson and Allan Turner became judges.

1974 In May the first judged show was held. The theme was "Violet Fairy Tales. Sandra Lex won the Best Butterfly White.

1975 In January John and Doris Brownlie joined. In May the first A.V.S.C. Convention was hosted at the Japanese Cultural Centre. "Violets Visit Kyoto" was the theme. Best in Show was 'Lullaby' exhibited by Sandra Lex. Sylvia Richardson was the President and in September that year Betty Tapping joined the Society.

1976 In March the Society manned a booth at the Toronto Garden Club Show. The May show theme was "Violets Go To The Movies". Carol and Don Plevin created the Court of Honour from movie ads and reels. The Best In Show was "Andrew Ian" exhibited by Sue Lampkin.

Sandra Lex became a Commercial member and formed Sanmar's Violetry. Betty Tapping won the Best Gesneiad with Episcia 'Karlyn'.

1977 A display of miniatures was presented at the Toronto Garden Club Show in March of that year. The May show theme was "Rainbow Of Violets" with the Court of Honour being a rainbow made from tissue paper flowers. The Best In Show was 'Becky' exhibited by John Brownlie. June of that year, Cathie Hammond became President.

1978 May show theme was "Violet Hang Ups" and the Best In Show was 'Gorgeous Variegated' exhibited by Doris Brownlie. The Toronto A.V. Society with the theme of "Violets Coast To Coast" hosted the A.V.S.C. Convention Show. The Best In Show was 'Mark' exhibited by Doris Brownlie. Jim Bodnar started selling Episcia 'Cleopatra'. In September John and Doris Brownlie went Commercial and formed ACA's Violet Tree. Eleanor Elston and Inez Wolfe joined. At the December potluck Christmas dinner Lisa Hammond, (the daughter of Cathy Hammond) played 16 Christmas Carols for the members. Bev Williams joined.

1979 "Galaxy of Violets" the theme for the May show. The Best in Show was "Amazing Grace" exhibited by Betty Tapping. There were commercial displays from John Nichols and ACA's Violet Tree. Lakeshore received its first blue A.V.S.A. rosette for excellence. Niches and the shadow box were used for the first time in the design section of the show. In June Betty Tapping became President, Sylvia took over from Marguerite as Treasurer and Marguerite took over the kitchen duties.

1980 10th Anniversary Party in April. Lakeshore hosted the second A.V.S.C. Convention at the Rodeway Inn with the theme "Violets By Lake Ontario". The Best In Show was 'Abigail Adams' exhibited by Leda Pidverbny. There were six commercial displays at the convention and the best was by Sanmar's Violetry

1981 In May, Lakeshore had its first show at Sherway Gardens. The theme was "Magic Garden Of Violets" Betty Tapping's plant of 'Fisher's Leone' was stolen before the show was judged. Best In Show was 'Rhapsody Heidi' exhibited by Betty Tapping. In June Rene Mitchell was unable to go up as President, so Sylvia Richardson took the position and Doris Brownlie became the Treasurer. The first meal at the Flaming Embers on Kipling Avenue took place in December. Walter Kowowan was Santa Claus and Eleanor Elston sang a song about violets.

1982 "Violets on Vacation" was the theme for the May show. The Best in Show was 'Fisher's Leone' exhibited by Betty Tapping. Many members entered the A.V.S.A. Convention show 'I Love New York' which was located in Syracuse, New York. Betty Tapping represented Lakeshore well by winning the Second Best In Show with 'Mark' and the Third Best In Show with 'Fisher's Leone'. In addition, she won her first A.V.S.A. Group Of Three and won a floral cart, which was the first of five. Sixteen commercials had display tables and the best was ACA's Violet Tree of Mississauga, Ontario with the best new introduction 'Fisher's Leone'. Mr. Fisher received the bronze medallion for his excellence in hybridizing.

1983 Carole Davey was elected President in June and the May show theme was “Violets On Camera”. Bev Williams won Best In Show with ‘ACA’s Eye Knees’. Bev Britt joined and Sylvia married Pieter Saalmans.

1984 The May show theme was “Violets Celebrate”. Gisela Wormitt with ‘Interlude’ won the Best In Show. Betty Tapping won Best In Show amateur at the A.V.S.A. Show in Philadelphia with ‘ACA’s Eye Knees’ and John Brownlie won the Best In Show commercial with ‘ACA’s Eye Knees’ his hybrid.

1985 Best In Show at the annual May show was ‘Mark’ exhibited by Bev Britt. The theme this year ‘Violets Alive In ‘85’. Bev Williams was show chairman and also won the Best In Design. In June John Brownlie became President. A design school was held at the Century United Church and was taught by Ray Dooley.

1986 In January Doris Brownlie and Bev Williams made the pink and blue aprons, which were to be worn by members at the annual show. The May show “Violets On Parade” had Sandra Lex exhibiting the Best In Show with ‘Grandma Zachs’. In October we celebrated Bud and Betty Tapping’s 40th wedding anniversary. The annual Christmas dinner was held at the Café Nouvelle for the first time.

1987 January saw us celebrating John and Doris’s 20th wedding anniversary. The annual May show’s theme was “Violets For All Seasons” with the Best In Show being ‘Red Ferrari’ exhibited by Bev Britt. In June Sandra Lex became President. October saw Lakeshore host the first every New York State Convention outside of NYS in Toronto. The theme was “Violet Heaven in ‘87”. The Best in Show was ‘L’Ambassadeur’ which was exhibited by Betty Tapping. Fifteen members exhibited with 321 exhibits in horticulture and 38 in design.

1988 The May show theme was “Violets Through the Looking Glass’. Sandra Lex exhibited the Best In Show. Fifteen members exhibited with 357 exhibits in horticulture and 28 exhibits in design.

1989 Annual May show theme was “Ontario-It’s Incredible”. ‘Paumonauk’ exhibited by Betty Tapping was the Best In Show. Fifteen members exhibited with 241 entries in horticulture and 24 exhibits in design. The President elected in June was Eleanor Elston. In October Emma Bygott made crochet hats for table favours for the NYS Convention.

1990 “The Roaring Twenties” was the theme for the annual May show. Best In Show was ‘Tony’s Special’ exhibited by Bev Williams. Twenty people exhibited 273 plants and 29 entries in design. In September Bud Tapping took over the monthly club sales table. Vivian Beeching joined.

1991 The annual show was held at the Century United Church this year due to renovations at Sherway Gardens. The theme was 'Once Upon A Time'. Best in Show was exhibited by Bev Williams with 'Picasso'. There were 26 members exhibiting with 290 entries in horticulture and 35 exhibits in design. In June Jim Toms became President and Joyce Dawson joined.

1992 "Show Of The Century" was the theme for the annual May show. Best in Show was won by Bev Williams exhibiting 'Desir'. Eighteen members exhibited with 324 entries in horticulture and 41 exhibits in design.

1993 Lakeshore hosted its third A.V.S.C. Convention at the Days Inn at the airport in May. Michel Marcii with 'Desir' won the Best in Show. Tony and Gerry Hulleman became members. Betty Tapping was awarded the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate leadership at the A.V.S.A. Convention in Lancaster. Sylvia Saalmans became President in June and the first picnic at Campbellville Retreat Centre was held. We celebrated John and Doris's retirements. Daphne Yaremko is elected President. Lakeshore hosted a judging school in May.

1994 Best In Show was 'Marshlands' which was exhibited by Gerry Hulleman. The theme was "Violets-Broadway Bound". The June Awards banquet was held at San Vito's on the Queensway, and the December banquet was held at Miller's Country Fare.

1995 Peter Yaremko designed the Lakeshore pins. In March a Japanese designer was our guest speaker. In April Lakeshore members celebrated our 25th Anniversary and the May show theme reflected that. John Brownlie introduces his hybrid to celebrate the 10th anniversary 'Lakeshore Silver'. The theme this year was "Silver Anniversary-Down Memory Lane". Bev Williams who exhibited 'Melodie Kimi' won the Best in Show. There were 425 exhibits in horticulture and 25 in design. Sylvia Saalmans won the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership at the A.V.S.A. Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. In June Sylvia Saalmans died. Vivian Beeching became President and we had our second picnic at the Campbellville Retreat where Vivian made a beautiful design as a memorial for Sylvia. We auctioned many of Sylvia's belongings to club members. Bud Tapping retired from the club sales tables. Society bought the equipment for making soil. In October Peter Yaremok died. Marguerite Favro retired from kitchen duties. Lakeshore members assemble at Vivian Beeching in Mississauga in October to make their own soil. One hundred bags were made.

1996 Eleanor Elston hosted a design school in February and Ralph Robinson visited in March. Bev Britt retired to Wales. The May show theme was "Violets On Canvas". Vivian Beeching created the Court Of Honour. The Best in Show was 'Perhaps Love' exhibited by Bruno Curcuruto. Sandra Lex and Doris Brownlie were Co-Show Chairman. In September we moved our meeting place to the halls of the Re-organized Church Of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints on Old Burnhamthorpe Road. Wilson Bygott made us a beautiful sturdy storage cabinet.

1997 Ralph Robinson talked to us about trailers in January. Lakeshore hosted the fourth A.V.S.C. Convention in May in the Toronto area at the Howard Johnston Hotel on Keele Street. "Violets Among Friends". Vasco Cruz created the Court Of Honour. Betty Tapping won her first Best In Show at a Canadian convention with "Picasso". Yvon Decelles died just before the show and we had a short memorial for him at the banquet. We also decided to have a memorial class for him at Lakeshore shows. Vivian entered her second term as President. Paul Kroll visits in September. Project plant introduced for the 1998 show.

1998 April show this year with the theme of "Toronto Loves Violets" The Best in Show was 'Party Print' exhibited by Carolyn Conlin-Lane. It was the biggest show ever with 660 people attending because of an onsite radio show with Mark Cullen. Betty Tapping still reached the winners' circle with her entry of 'Emerald Love Sport', which won Junior Queen. There were over 350 exhibits. Eleanor Elston was elected the President of the African Violet Society of Canada in May. Daphne Yarmenko is elected President of Lakeshore, as Vivian Beeching has to decline due to illness.

1999 Another April show. The theme was "Thanks For The Memories". Bruno Curcurto won the Best In Show with his hybrid 'B-Man's Moncibello'. The show had 417 horticultural entries in spite of the fact that the National convention show was in Toronto at the end of May at the Civic Garden Centre. The A.V.S.A. Judges Council-Ontario hosted this convention. Bev Williams and Eleanor Elston were Co-Convention Chairman. That show's theme was "Toronto Welcomes Violets". For the first time a species won the Best Under 12" it was Saintpaulia 'House Of Amani' exhibited by Carolyn Conlin-Lane. Bruno Curcurto won the Best in Show with his hybrid of 'B-Man's Melila'. Jim Toms is elected President of Lakeshore A.V.S. Dale Martens visits in October, gives an A.G.G.S. judging school and talks at Lakeshore. Doris Brownlie presents the History of Lakeshore African Violet Society at the May meeting.

2000 Ralph and Olive Robinson visit in February. Paul Kroll came in March and gave a program on design. Lakeshore members celebrated their 30th anniversary with this year's theme of "Thirty Years Young" in April of the year. Best in Design was won by Eleanor Elston, Sandra Lex exhibited the Best Semiminiature 'Snuggles', and the Best Trailer 'Pixie Blue'. Jim Toms who exhibited 'Ness' Angle Babe' exhibited Best Miniature, it was also the Second Best in Show. Tony Hulleman won the Best In Show with 'ACA's Coral Beauty'. Jim Toms became the editor of 'Chatter'. Nancy and Russ joined. Paul Kroll taught a judging school in November. Betty Tapping receives Honouary Life Membership in the Society for her outstanding contributions.

2001 Lakeshore members annual show theme this year was "Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue..." and it was held in April. Show Chair was Sandra Lex. The Best in Show was 'Smooch Me' which was exhibited by Tony Hulleman. Sandra Lex won the Best Semiminiature, and Second Best in Show with 'Rob's Scooter'. In addition the Second Best in the show with 'Rob's Bee Boopsie'. Nancy Ley won the Best In Design. In

May, Jim Toms was elected the President of The African Violet Society of Canada and enters his second term as President of Lakeshore A.V.S.

2002 Ralph and Olive Robinson come in February to give a presentation at the meeting. They were last here two years ago. This meeting was held at Loblaw's before the new location was found. Meeting location changed to St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Etobicoke after a long search for a suitable location. Newsletter to be sent out to the members via the Internet. April's show theme was "Violets For Me And You In 2002" and was chaired by Vivian Beeching. Best in Show was 'Albany Sunset' exhibited by Tony Hulleman. He also exhibited the Second Best In Show 'ACA's Red Ember'. Sandra Lex exhibited the Best Miniature and Third Best In Show 'Rob's Bee Boopsie', her 'Rob's Calypso Beat' was the Best Semiminiature that year. Sherway Gardens stopped admission charge at the door or the show. Marguerite Favro died.

2003 In February, Paul Kroll gives a program on species and then does a design workshop at Jim Tom's house. Again Lakeshore hosts the African Violet Society of Canada Annual Convention in Mississauga at the Novel Hotel. Doris Brownlie is Convention Chairman and Sandra Lex is Show Chairman. The theme is "A Celebration Of Violets". S.A.R.S. comes to Toronto so many people do not attend. Best in Show "Kiwi Dazzler" is won by Lisa Reynolds. Sandra Lex exhibits best Miniature 'Persian Prince'. Best Semiminiature 'Ness' Crinkle Blue' is exhibited by Bev Williams. Marina DeSouza wins the Best In Design. Jim Toms agrees to extend his term of President of the African Violet Society of Canada. Betty Tapping opens the A.V.S.C. Show. In June the members celebrated a job well done with a catered dinner. Ray Morrison is elected as President, Sharon Kemp as Secretary.

2004 The May annual show theme is "Violets: A Novel Idea!". Show Chairman is Bev Williams. 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' exhibited by Tony Hulleman is the Best in Show and Best Standard. Tony also exhibits "Mosaïque" Second Best In Show and "Concord" Third Best In Show. Sandra Lex and Jim Toms are awarded Honourary Life Membership in the Society.

2005 The annual show theme was "Violets Thrive At Thirty-Five" reflecting the Society's 35th Anniversary. Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman, and she won Best In Show with Species 'ionantha' and Best Species, in addition she also won Best Trailer with 'Rob's Vanilla Trails' and horticultural sweepstake. The Best Gesneriad was Chirita 'linerifolia' exhibited by Carolyn Colin-Lane. Sandra Lex exhibited 'Optimara Little Moonstone' which was the Best Miniature and Second Best In the Show. Best Semiminiature was 'Sky Blue' which was exhibited by Marina de Souza. Third Best in Show was 'B-Man's Agrigento' which was exhibited by Bruno Curcuruto.

2006 In January, John Brownlie gave a talk about his hybridizing experiences. In February, Bill Price, from Vancouver, became the "Trailer Trash" with his talk on trailers. Nancy Ley became President of the Society. In March of 2006 Betty Tapping a Past President of the Society and a well know grower graced us with a talk about her experiences in growing and show through the years.

The annual show theme was “Violets Coast To Coast”. Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman. Best in Show was won by Bruno Curcuruto with ‘Blue Boy’. Tony Hulleman won Second Best in Show with ‘Taffeta Blue’ and Bill Price won Third Best in Show with species *tongwensis* #3397 Uppsala clone which he also took to the A.V.S.C.

Convention in Ottawa where it was the Best in the Species Class and Second Best in the Show. Tony Hulleman also went to Ottawa where he won Best in Show and many other awards. The Best Semiminiature in the show was ‘Rob’s Kid Wheezy’ which was exhibited by Jim Toms. In November Paul Kroll, of East Aurora taught a Judging School. Ernie Elias died.

2007 The annual show theme was “Sing Along With Violets”. Nancy Ley was still President. Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman. Bill Price, from Vancouver, B. C. won Best in Show with sp. confuse, it was also the Best Species. He also won the Best Trailer with ‘Myakka Trail’. Bruno Curcuruto won Best Standard and Second Best in Show with ‘Perhaps Love’. ‘Desir’ was the Best Standard under 12 inches exhibited by Beverley Williams. Best Semiminiature was ‘Rob’s Hallucination’ and Best Miniature was ‘Gleeful Elf’ both exhibited by Beverley Williams. There were just fewer than 300 African violets exhibited at Sherway Gardens, Etobicoke.

Some of our members went to the A.V.S.A. Convention in Denver, Co. Bud Tapping died.

In October the members of the Lakeshore hosted the A.V.S.C. Convention in Mississauga. Doris Brownlie was the Convention Chairman. Jim Toms was the Registrar and Co-Convention Chairman. Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman. Beverley Williams won the Best In Show with ‘Plumberry Glow’, which was also the Best Semiminiature. Bruno Curcuruto won the Runner-up to Best in Show with his entries of ‘Blue Boy’ that was also the Best Standard.

2008 The annual show theme was “Violets: The Jewels From Africa”. Nancy Ley was President and Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman. Beverley Williams with ‘Ness’ Cranberry Swirl’ won Best in Show. Second Best in Show was ‘Von’s Baby Jay’ and the Best Miniature was ‘Pink Dove’ exhibited by Beverley Williams. Best in Design was ‘Zebras-Jewels of the Grasslands’ exhibited by Julie Thompson. There were over 300 entries in the show and the weather was good.

Some of our members attended the A.V.S.A. Convention in Tulsa, OK. The weather was very violent with warnings of tornadoes. Bill Price won the Best In Show with species *tongwensis* 3397 Uppsala clone. Beverley Williams won the Best Semiminiature with ‘Rob’s Combustible Pigeon’.

2009 The annual show them was “Centre Stage With Violets” Vivian Beeching was the President. Tony Hulleman with ‘Therese’ won the Best in Show. Second Best in Show was ‘Beacon Trail’ exhibited by Beverley Williams who was also the Show Chairman. Best

Miniature was exhibited by Brett Flewelling with 'Pink Dove' and Best Semiminiature was 'Ness' Cranberry Swirl' exhibited by Beverley Williams.

In February, we hosted a Judging School. Bill Price came from Vancouver, BC and Paul Kroll, from East Aurora, NY taught the school.

Members from our Society attended the A.V.S.A. Convention in Reno, Nevada. All of the major awards were won by Canadians including Best In Show, which was won by Bill Price with 'Broadway Trail'. Some members of our Society also attended the A.V.S.C. Convention held in Calgary, Alberta.

Tony Hulleman and Gerry Hulleman sold their house and moved to an apartment. We will miss his large number of beautiful exhibits.

2010 The Lakeshore African Violet Society hosted the African Violet Society of Canada's Convention. The theme was as was fitting for the occasion "Canada Gold" in recognition of the A.V.S.C.'s 50th Anniversary. The official functions took place at The Old Mill in Toronto, but the violet show was held at Sherway Gardens, Etobicoke.

In honour of this occasion, Canada Post issued a series of stamps that were officially unveiled at Sherway Gardens on May 1st. Two Canadian African violet hybrids, 'Picasso' and 'Decelles' Avalanche' were featured in bloom on the commemorative stamps. Both flowers were grown by members of the Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal (SSM). On the stamps the violets were shown in pots on a windowsill. The President of A.V.S.C. Paul Kroll, opened the show. Doris Brownlie was the Convention Chairman and Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman.

Best in Show was won by Doris Brownlie with her plant of 'Picasso'. Runner-up to Best in Show was species confusa Uppsala 2004-0790 exhibited by Bill Price. Beverley Williams won the Best Semiminiature with 'Jolly Eyes' and Best Miniature with 'Rob's Chilly Willy'. Best in Design was won by Deanna Belli with her design "Olympic Gold".

Some members of the Society attended the A.V.S.A.'s Annual Convention and Show in Raleigh, North Carolina.

2011 The theme of this year's show was "Violets On The Move". In the late summer of 2010 we were notified that Sherway Gardens was going to be under construction for 2011 and onward. We proceeded to locate a different venue for 2011. In addition the space, tables and advertizing previous enjoyed free of charge was now going to cost \$2000 for a weekend show. Just before the beginning of the year, Sherway Gardens notified us that construction would now not start until 2012 and hopefully finish before 2013.

The show was held at St. Philip's Lutheran Church where the Society holds its monthly meetings. Jim Toms was the President, and Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman. Many



of our members attended the A.V.S.A .Convention which was held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey and the Gesneriad Society Convention which was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania six weeks later across the bridge from Cherry Hill.

2012 The theme of this year's show was "Violets Rock" and it was held at St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Jim Toms was President and Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman. The Best Standard, and Best Standard Under 12 inches in show was "The Alps" exhibited by Brett Flewelling. Brett also exhibited many other exhibits including "ACA's Eloise" which was the Best Semiminiature. Best Miniature was "Rob's Chilly Willy" also exhibited by Brett Flewelling. Second Best In Show was "Rob's Vanilla Trail" exhibited by Bill Price. The Best Gesneriad was Streptocarpus "Heartland's Baby Egrets" exhibited by Brett Flewelling. We celebrated the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Gerry & Tony Hulleman at the Annual Show. The Best In Design was "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" exhibited by Deanna Belli. Attendance was better the second year at this new venue and our club sales were good.

The A.V.S.A/A.V.S.C. Convention was held in Detroit, Michigan so many of our members were able to drive. It was the first time that a combined A.V.S.A. & A.V.S.C. convention was held. We made table favours for one of the meals. Second Best In Show was won by Olga Semova. Best Species was won by Bill Price.

Jim Toms retired as the Editor of "Chatter" and Sayeh Beheshti from Toronto became the new Editor. Jim received a Lifetime Membership to A.V.S.C. for his years of service. Nancy Ley was elected as the President of A.V.S.C. Doris Brownlie became 1st Vice President of A.V.S.C.

Some of our members went to Seattle, Washington to attend The Gesneriad Society Convention. It was extremely hot in Toronto all summer, but Seattle was cold and damp. We had a soil making party at Vivian Beeching in August and made 198 bags. In August Roland Schwan died suddenly.

2013 In September of the previous year at an Executive meeting, a suggestion was made to have a website. Jim Toms developed the website with the domain name of 'lakeshoreavs.ca'. It would cost \$15 to register it per year. As it was added to the A.V.S.C. site permission was need to go through their site.

A discussion took place in regards to ordering postcards with the club and show information and they were ready for January. In addition, the card were to be used at the C.N.E. in August for advertising the club and show.

In February, Carolyn Conlin-Lane gave a presentation on Sinningias. In March Paul Kroll came from East Aurora to give a presentation on species violets. It was well received.

The theme for the show was “In Tune With Violets” and it was held at St. Philip’s Lutheran Church. Jim Toms was President and Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman. The show was open from 9:00am until 5:00pm. The judge’s comments said that the “exhibits were of very high quality”, and also suggested that a “passing judge” be assigned for the design exhibits.

2014 The Toronto African Violet Society hosted the A.V.S.C. Convention in April with the theme being “Violets Roam the World” at The Weston Prince Hotel, Toronto, Ontario. Doris Brownlie was Show Chairman. As a result a decision was made not to have a local show as many of the members would be holding positions in the convention. Jim Toms agrees to stand for President for one more year. Storage of soil making supplies moved to Marie Pearson’s. Marilyn Crompton died.

2015 Mel Grice, from Ohio visited in January and presented a program on design. He also gave a talk at The Toronto Gesneriad Society.

The theme for the show was “Nature’s Rainbow” and it was held at St. Philip’s Lutheran Church. Jim Toms was President and Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman. The show was open from 9:00am until 5:00pm. Best in Show was species clone *diplotricha* ‘Parker’ and Best Species exhibited by Bill Price. Best Miniature was ‘Honey Blue Ace’ exhibited by Brett Flewelling. Best Trailer was ‘Peppermint Trail’ and the Best Semiminiature was ‘Rob’s Cool Fruit’ exhibited by Brett Flewelling. The Best Standard was ‘B-Man’s Taormina’ exhibited by Doris Brownlie.

Best Gesneriad was won by Emma Bygott with *Primulina linearifolia* and the Best Design was done by Judy Zinni.

2016 The theme for the show was “Up, Up and Away With Violets” and it was held at St. Philip’s Lutheran Church. Jim Toms was President and Beverley Williams was the Show Chairman. The show was open from 9:00am until 4:00pm. A decision was made to close the show an hour earlier because of lack of attendance during the last hour.

Best in Show and Best Semiminiature was ‘Optimara Little Omaha’ exhibited by Beverley Williams. She also exhibited the Best Species species clone *diplotricha* ‘Parker’. Bruce Williams exhibited the Best Standard with ‘Tony’s Blue Magic’. Best Miniature was ‘Little Bo Peep’ exhibited by Brett Flewelling. He also received Best Seedling for his hybrid ‘James’ Favourite’.

The Best Trailer was won by Bill Price, ‘Jersey Fantasy Trail’. Best Gesneriad was exhibited by Brett Flewelling with *Streptocarpus* ‘Harlequin Lace’. Judy Zinni won the Best Design in the show with her interpretation of “Magic Carpet”. Jim Bodner died. Beverley and Bruce Williams hosted a judging school in their home. Paul Kroll was the teacher and several people came from the US to attend.

Bill Price won Best in Show and Best Gesneriad at the A.V.S.A Convention. Doris Brownlie told us "A.V.S.A. said Bill is the Best Grower in the world".

2017 John and Doris are celebrating their 50th Anniversary in January. The February meeting was cancelled because of the weather. In March, Karyn Cichocki, from New Jersey gave a talk on underwater design. The Lakeshore A.V.S. website has been moved and is independent now as it's not under A.V.S.C. The new website address is: [lakeshoreavs.com](http://lakeshoreavs.com).

The theme of the show was "Dancing With Violets" and it was held at St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Beverley Williams was Show Chairman. The judges said the exhibits were "well presented". The designs were 'well executed, very creative' and "excellent interpretation of theme". Best in Show and Best Species was species 5c2clone diplotricha 'Parker' exhibited by Brett Flewelling. He also exhibited the Best Miniature 'Little Bo Peep'. Best Standard "LE Panochka" was exhibited by Bruce Williams and the Best Trailer 'RS Klad' was exhibited by Beverley Williams.

Brett Flewelling hybridized and exhibited 'Frisly dilly' which he received the Best New Seedling and Best Semiminiature. The Best Gesneriad was *Nematanthus gregarious* which was exhibited by Steven Kerr. Best in Design was won by Steven Kerr. Steve moved to Chatham, Ontario. A judging school was held in November at the home of Beverley and Bruce Williams. Paul Kroll was the teacher.

2018 A decision was made by the members and Executive to forgo the Annual Show & Sale because A.V.S.A. and A.V.S.C. Convention was to be held in Buffalo, NY. Julie Thompson was the A.V.S.C. Convention Co-Ordinator and Beverley Williams was the A.V.S.C. Co-Show Chairman. This was the second time that a joint convention had been held. It was well received. Beverley Williams received the Hudson Memorial Award at the Convention for Affiliate Leadership at the A.V.S.A. /A.V.C.A. Convention. Bill Price won Best Trailer and 2nd Best in Show with 'Demer's Pixie Belle'. He also received a new award from Bob Demer in honour of his wife Heather. Beverley Williams won the Best Other Gesneriad with *Columnnea mycrophylla*.

Vivian Beeching became the President and was installed at the June dinner. Bruce Williams became the Vice-President. The members held a plant sale at St. Philip's Lutheran Church in April.

It was a very warm summer in Toronto. Some of the members attended The Gesneriad Society Convention in Framingham, MA in July. Jim Toms moved to Victoria, British Columbia. Russ Ley died.

2019 Bruce Williams became President at the June dinner.

2020 Started off as any other year. By the mid-March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic got worse Ontario recommended the closure of all programs and businesses that were non-essential. Our meeting space at the Church was closed. As a result our monthly meetings were cancelled and moved to a Zoom format. Our Annual Show and Sale was also cancelled. Zoom meeting presented an unexpected advantage. We were able to reach out to other Societies and Clubs and invite speakers who we otherwise would not be able to see. A positive that came with Zoom meeting is that we were able to invite other society members to join our meetings and we were able to sit in on other society meetings without leaving our homes.

2021-2022 As the pandemic continued, contact was maintained with the Society members meetings using Zoom. It soon became apparent that some members who could not attend monthly meeting greatly benefited having this option available for them. No shows or in-person meeting were allowed as the Church remained closed.

2022 Monthly meetings were starting to be allowed in some areas. The Church allowed in-person meeting later in the year, but they were stickily regulated and masking was mandatory. Contact information was collected for safety, and in-person meetings did not resume immediately that year and continued using Zoom. As time went on more events were being allowed with restrictions. Other Societies still were not allowed to meet in-person and their shows continued to be cancelled.

We proceeded to plan an Annual Show and Sale in April, but were not sure if it would be allowed. The show proceeded at the last minute and was well attended. It was decided that we would continue Zoom meeting for the January and February meetings as it allowed those who could not attend monthly meetings to participate. The theme of the show was "Let's Celebrate". We finally got to celebrate our 50 Anniversary. Best in Show was 'Morgan's Barossa' exhibited by Beverley Williams. Second Best in show was 'Hunter's My Grande' exhibited by Bruce Williams. Covid-19 was still a problem; people were still getting positive results from Covid testing and as a result some members could not attend in-person meeting or the show. Beverley Williams was Show Chairman and Bruce Williams was President.

2023 Membership continued to improve as more were getting back into attending meeting. Membership had been lost in many Societies due to the pandemic and losing interest. The theme of the show as "Violets of the North". Best in Show, and Best Trailer was 'Beacon Trail' exhibited by Beverley Williams. Second Best in Show was won by Bruce Williams with 'Eskimo Kisses. The show was well attended. Some Societies still were not meeting in person and their show were still cancelled. Some of members attended the AVSA Annual Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. A number of attendees contacted Covid-19.

A judging school was held in November at the home of Beverley and Bruce Williams's. Paul Kroll was the teacher. Emma Bygott died. John Brownlie died.

2024 Annual Show and Sale was staged at St. Philips Lutheran Church. It was well attended. The public came to see the show. Best in Show was 'Hunter's Profusion' won by Beverley Williams, Show Chairman. She also won the second Best in Show with 'Optimara Comanche'. There were brisk sales at the club and vendor sales tables. The judges said that it was a "wonderful display for a small society with a very inventive theme of "Violets in the Modern World". There was a good selection of plants on display and the quality was "amazing". The Best Standard was "Hunter's Muy Grande" won by Bruce Williams who is still the President. James Dean Parise won Best Other Gesneriad with Sinningia 'SimSim Salaviem' a striking red small Sinningia.

Meetings continue to be held in-person at the church except for January and February which have switched to Zoom meetings. This option has continued and it allows for some members who cannot travel to the meetings to attend and avoids cancellations during those months due to snow storms. Several members attended the AVSA Convention in Phoenix, Arizona and the Gesneriad Society Convention in St. Louis, Mo.

Julie Thompson became interim President of the African Violet Society of Canada. The first newsletter of the Society was send out via email after the loss of the Editor of Chatter by Karyn Cichocki and was well received.