

# LUCILE ELIZABETH PANABAKER

## *Education*



Inducted: 2004  
Years at GCI & VS:  
1924 - 1928

Lucile Elizabeth Panabaker was born in Detroit, Michigan, on December 2, 1910. The lure of a better-paying job at the woolen mill caused the family to move to Hespeler. Daily trolley rides from Hespeler to Galt began Lucile's high school life at GCI during the 1920's. What a great time that must have been as the old building was undergoing major reconstruction. Lucile was the winner of the GCI Literary Society's Oratorical Contest of 1927. Her topic was: *Moving Pictures: from humble beginnings to their current state of perfection*. Following graduation, she attended Normal School in Hamilton in 1929.

Miss Panabaker began teaching kindergarten in Kitchener. In 1937 she became an exchange teacher in Northampton, England, teaching four year olds. Upon her return she researched courses to teach preschoolers but found none. World War II changed this. In 1941 Wartime Day Nurseries were needed because the young mothers were needed in the war effort. Miss Panabaker was accepted into this program in 1942, and quickly progressed to become Program Consultant in 1945. Nonetheless, when the war ended these programs were in jeopardy. She was part of a successful movement to keep them open in Ontario, by forming a team of three Day Nursery Supervisors employed by the Ontario Government. Their role was to establish and license day nurseries throughout Ontario.

In 1964 Miss Panabaker was the Director of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) course at McMaster University. In 1968 she published *Lucile Panabaker's Song Book* followed in 1974 by *Lucile Panabaker's Second Song Book*. These books grew out of her experiences in demonstrating creative music to preschoolers and their teachers. She also published several poems. She remained an Early Childhood Consultant and leader in ECE until her retirement in 1977. The Waterloo Association of Early Childhood Education established an annual bursary in her name at Conestoga College. She was a consultant to the CBC for children's television programming and wrote scripts for *Playroom*. She traveled to China, funded by the Canadian Government, as an ECE consultant. As a lecturer she spoke at many universities and colleges in Ontario. Miss Panabaker's love of travel was reflected in her trip to Antarctica at age eighty.

Miss Panabaker was often recognized for her innovative and creative ways of doing "anything that could improve the lives of children in Ontario".