

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It was an honour to mourn Jack Layton

Re: Hamilton mourns Jack Layton (Aug. 25)

Ellen S. Jaffe, Hamilton

Aug 29, 2011

It was an honour to be among the people attending the candlelight vigil for Jack Layton last Thursday evening. Local, provincial, and federal politicians, NDP members and people in the wider community who feel a connection to Layton and his values, we all gathered to express our love and grief for the man and our hope that his legacy will be the ongoing creation of a more generous, caring, environmentally friendly Canada, with economic and social policies that benefit everyone, especially those now hurting in one way or another. As we sang Amazing Grace, Hallelujah, and O Canada — led by two women with beautiful voices and heartfelt stories — we stood united as Hamiltonians, Ontarians and Canadians. The letter to Layton by a young woman voter was especially moving, as she represents hope for the future. At the very moment that one of the speakers praised Layton, a bus rolled by advertising “Great Canadians” — a sure sign that Layton is among that great company! I think the outpouring of tributes for this man shows that Canadians do care deeply about living in a country that is “loving, hopeful, and optimistic,” to quote his letter to us.

NOTE: Lyla and her friend Catherine Silverglen sang at this very special event.