

Company of Biologists Report

From May 15-17, 2025, students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty members from across Ontario gathered at Carleton University for the 51st annual Ontario Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution Colloquium. This event is a conference run “for students by students.” It allows early career researchers to present their work at a well-respected and long-standing provincial conference. Over three days, attendees participate in field trips, networking, and amazing presentation and poster sessions. Dr. Christina Caruso, Dr. Rassim Khelifa and Dr. Thomas Hossie presented inspiring keynote presentations, keeping with our theme: Navigating Earth’s Ecosystems Today and Tomorrow.

We are very grateful to the Company of Biologists for their generous support of OE3C 2025. Through the funding provided by the Scientific Meeting Grant, OE3C offered Company of Biologists’ travel grants to two deserving students who otherwise would not have had the resources to attend without posing a significant financial strain on themselves. This contribution enabled this event to promote equity and inclusivity. The recipients came from different Ontario universities and reflected diverse academic and social backgrounds that are often underrepresented at scientific conferences. These awards were valued at \$1000 and \$600 (CAD). This covered the students’ registration fees and travel expenses. These awards, along with the other travel grants and awards offered this year, ensured financial barriers did not prevent talented students from sharing their research and engaging with other researchers in their respective fields.

We were excited to welcome these students and others to Carleton University for OE3C. Their presence enriched the conference in many ways. Our \$1000 grant recipient actively contributed to the programme with their research abstract. Their oral presentation was runner-up in the undergrad research category. We were especially honoured to provide a \$600 grant to a student who had been unable to attend conferences in the past due to financial barriers and accessibility-related challenges. By enabling these students to attend, they were able to learn more about the biological research being conducted across the province. They were also able to engage directly with established researchers and make connections that may advance their professional development. Both students were extremely grateful for the opportunity.

Many attendees were undergraduate students (including our two grant recipients), meaning this was their first scientific conference. We were honoured to be

able to provide this opportunity to many early-career scientists. The standard of presentations was exceptionally high this year. It was inspiring to see these students present their research at such a high calibre and heartwarming to see them cultivate relationships with one another.

In short, the Scientific Meeting Grant from the Company of Biologists, provided critical support to young researchers at a formative stage in their careers. It helped us to ensure that our conference was accessible, inclusive, and enriched by a diverse range of voices. OE3C and the organizers from Carleton University are sincerely thankful to the Company of Biologists for their commitment to supporting the next generation of biologists.

Company of Biologists Report

May we remind you again of our requirement to submit a report providing an assessment of the impact of your recent grant from The Company of Biologists and providing at least two bright, clear photographs. Your report and photographs should be submitted through the grants application portal.

Your report is due no later than 2025-08-17. Your report may be used on our website, social media and other promotional materials and will be retained for at least 7 years. The report may also be inspected by the Charity Commission.

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Summary Report

* Summary Report

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Photograph upload

* We request that you provide at least 2 bright, clear photographs

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