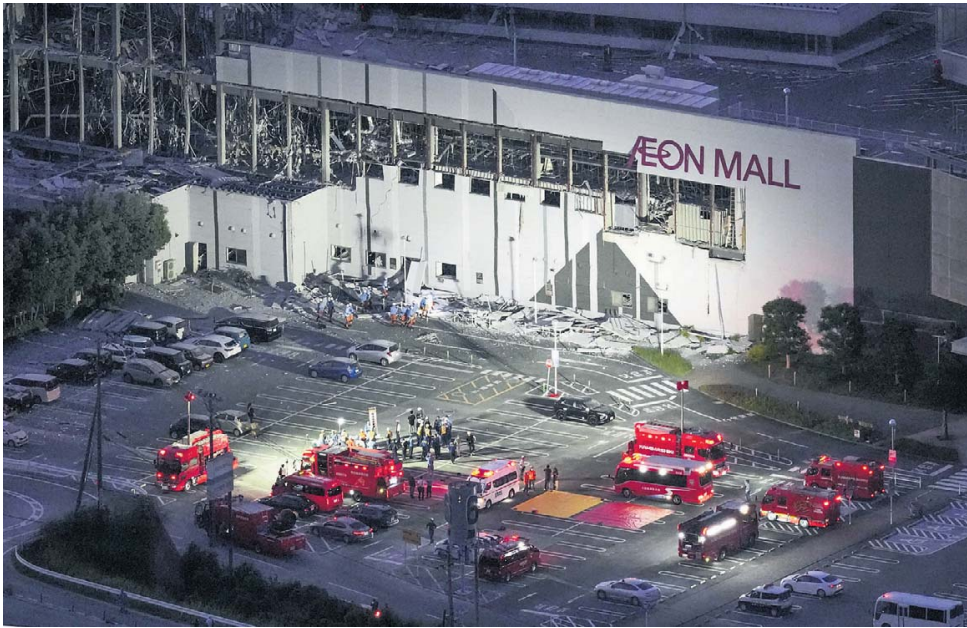


[ASIA]



An aerial image shows the damage to the Aeon Mall in Kashima, Japan, after an earthquake and ensuing explosion Tuesday. One side of the shopping centre, which houses about 200 stores, was torn away in the blast. KYODO NEWS VIA AP

QUAKE RATTLES SOUTHERN JAPAN

Disaster leaves at least 13 dead, disrupts power and travel across region, as rescuers race to find survivors in collapsed mall ■ A3

Trade officials return to Washington in bid to advance talks, head off fresh tariffs

MARIEKE WALSH OTTAWA,
ADRIAN MORROW WASHINGTON
MARK RENDELL TORONTO

Canada-U.S. Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc is back in Washington this week as Ottawa seeks to avoid the imposition of punishing new tariffs on Aug. 19 and move broader trade discussions forward.

Mr. LeBlanc flew to the U.S. capital on Monday along with Canada's chief trade negotiator to the United States, Janice Charette, for meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, according to a Canadian official with knowledge of the plans. Their re-

turn date is not yet confirmed and will depend on their meeting schedule, the official said.

On Tuesday, Mr. LeBlanc attended late U.S. senator Lindsey Graham's funeral alongside Canada's ambassador to the United States Mark Wiseman, according to that source and another government official.

Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Wiseman later attended a "Canada-U.S. Friendship Day" event at Nationals Park where Washington's baseball team was playing against the Blue Jays, the officials said.

The event was sponsored by the federal government and tech giants Google, Ama-

zon and Netflix.

The Globe and Mail is not naming the officials who were not authorized to disclose any details of the trip.

Last week, Prime Minister Mark Carney said the two governments had agreed to intensify talks after U.S. President Donald Trump said that his administration would impose additional 50-per-cent tariffs on around US\$20-billion worth of Canadian exports.

The tariffs would hit around 5 per cent of Canadian exports to the U.S., with the affected industries concentrated in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

■ LeBLANC, A6

As Graham honoured in capital, foreign leaders press Trump to carry on senator's legacy abroad

ADRIAN MORROW
U.S. CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON

As Washington's Republican elite gathered to mourn Lindsey Graham, the leaders of Ukraine and Israel worked to convince U.S. President Donald Trump to continue the late South Carolina senator's backing of their military objectives.

Ahead of Mr. Graham's funeral at Washington National Cathedral on Tuesday, which all three leaders attended, Ukrai-

nian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held back-to-back sit-downs with Mr. Trump in the Oval Office.

Both meetings unfolded entirely behind closed doors, which was unusual for Mr. Trump, who typically invites television cameras in during White House visits by foreign leaders.

Mr. Zelensky used his time with the U.S. President to push for more help defending Ukraine from Russian air strikes. He also urged Mr. Trump to restart negotiations toward a ceasefire.

"The President and I discussed licences

for Patriot interceptor production and several other ideas that could help," Mr. Zelensky wrote on social media afterward.

Ukrainian officials subsequently told the White House press pool that they expected Mr. Trump's international negotiators, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, to visit Kyiv to follow up.

Mr. Netanyahu was next up, spending a little less than 90 minutes with Mr. Trump at a time when the Israeli leader wants to keep the two countries' attack on Iran going and the U.S. President is continuing to cast about for a swift exit.

■ GRAHAM, A6



FOLIO
Grateful just to be alive
Wounded Russians come home from Putin's war shaped by new realities
■ A10

GORAN TOMASEVIC/
THE GLOBE AND MAIL

IMMIGRATION
Fewer Indians applying to study in Canada after restrictions on spousal visas ■ A4

REPORT ON BUSINESS
Allied Gold says Zijin's takeover bid in jeopardy while it waits on Chinese approval ■ B1

Ottawa vetted NATO intern arrested on suspicion of espionage

MARIE WOOLF OTTAWA

A Canadian intern at NATO's operational headquarters in Belgium who has been arrested on suspicion of espionage was vetted by Ottawa, two senior sources say.

Global Affairs Canada asked the RCMP to carry out a formal law-enforcement record check, including to see whether she had any criminal convictions or police interactions, one source said.

The Globe and Mail is not naming the two sources, who were not authorized to discuss sensitive matters publicly.

Interns at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization must undergo months of vetting before starting their roles, including at the alliance's operational base, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), in Mons, Belgium. The protocol for Canadians includes background checks by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the country's spy agency.

CSIS declined to comment on any involvement in the vetting process. The agency's website says it provides screening assessments to international organizations, including NATO, of Canadians seeking to work in sensitive roles abroad.

The RCMP did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

■ INTERN, A4

Nine charged in human trafficking case spanning Ontario, West

MATTHEW FRANK

Police in the Toronto area announced charges connected to an alleged human-trafficking network that spanned Ontario and Western Canada and involved a dozen victims, including one who officers said was trafficked for 15 years before she came forward.

Halton Regional Police Service Superintendent David Costantini told a news conference on Tuesday that officers arrested nine suspects after executing 10 search warrants earlier this month in Halton, Peel and Toronto. Police laid more than 80 charges as part of the commercial sexual-exploitation network investigation, dubbed Project Troubadour.

The probe began after a woman who was trafficked for 15 years came forward to the police in September, 2025, he said. From there, police identified 11 more victims, who were all women. Mr. Costantini said more people are likely affected, calling the investigation "just the tip of the iceberg."

The victims were from across the country and were trafficked to different provinces, with evidence showing they were moved to British Columbia, Alberta and around Ontario, according to officers. The arrests highlight the wider nature of human trafficking in Canada, where vulnerable people are transported and exploited across provincial borders.

■ TRAFFICKING, A7

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PODCAST Rachelle Younglai on what the latest data reveal about the state of the country's condo market tgam.ca/TheDecibel



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30

LOTTO 649

NEXT GOLD BALL JACKPOT \$38 MILLION OR THE GUARANTEED \$1 MILLION

OLG Play Smart

In the Seychelles, big luxury on a small yacht

If you like your food gourmet, your itinerary bespoke and your service impeccable, the new ship Aqua Lares is for you

HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS

‘Where is everybody?’ I ask marine guide Damien Alphonse as our ship bobs along billowing blue waters with not another vessel in sight. “This is it,” he says, waving his hand toward the horizon. “It’s all for us.”

The “it” he’s gesturing to is the Indian Ocean that connects the 115 islands of the Seychelles, off the coast of East Africa. The “us” are the 15 passengers (a mix of South Africans, Canadians, Americans and French) and 33 crew (including three naturalist guides) on board Aqua Lares – a 15-suite ultra-luxury expedition ship that is lazily swanning through the country’s 43 inner granitic islands.

Of course, neither this place, nor the ship are really “mine.” But there is no denying that I’m increasingly more at home here. A no-shoes policy on board has me wandering the halls in plush blue slippers emblazoned with gold octopus as if I do own the place. And when a pod of dolphins appears alongside the ship, seemingly pointing our sturdy vessel forward into paradise, it certainly feels like I’m living a dream made just for me.

Aqua Lares is the sixth ship in Aqua Expeditions’ fleet and the first in the biodiverse archipelago to offer the option of booking a cabin as opposed to chartering the entire ship. It began sailing in February.

Most suites are like my 279-square-foot enclave, which includes a plush king-sized bed, a walk-in shower, two large portholes and plenty of closet space. Staterooms start at US\$9,000 a person, double occupancy, for our five-night cruise and includes all meals, house wine, beer and two excursions a day.

Luxury yachts are having a moment: Brands from Ritz-Carlton to Orient Express have launched ships. But Aqua Lares, with its relaxed approach to the finer things, may be your best bucket-list option if you like your ships small, your food gourmet, your hospitality warm and your adventures bespoke.

The islands of the Seychelles are a siren song for explorers.



On board the 15-suite Aqua Lares, guests glide through 43 inner granitic islands in a bucket-list adventure in the Seychelles, off the coast of East Africa. ANTHONY DO



Most of the ship’s suites include a king-sized bed, a walk-in shower, two large portholes and lots of closet space. STEVIE MANN

However, their isolated location makes them notoriously expensive and challenging to get to. And while there are notable hotels to choose from in the region (including Cheval Blanc and Anantara), the islands’ best sides are seen from the deck of a ship.

It’s here on the sapphire sea that you realize what you’ve paid for: breathing room. Once we leave the island of Mahé (the largest in the Seychelles group and where international flights land), we rarely get close enough to another ship to make out its name. Each day, we gather on the deck to learn our proposed snorkel route. Divers are whisked off on a separate Zodiac than snorkellers, but we gather again over lunch and most afternoons to explore new destina-

tions on land or in the water, together.

At all but one of our snorkel spots, we have the place to ourselves, making the commune with sea life – everything from eels to rays – feel even more special. I marvel at neon yellow fish, who remain oblivious to the flap of my fins; eyes widened in wonder behind my mask.

We have an itinerary, of course, but from the moment we board, Captain Andriy Bratash makes it clear that delivering a memorable experience – not following a prescribed schedule – is his focus. Our guides, several of whom are Seychellois, know the islands well and excursions all feel insider-led.

At Silhouette Island Marine National Park, golden sands abut

frothy whitecaps of turquoise water; bats the size of gulls fly overhead; and a path of coral leads into the forest beyond. It’s my favourite beach stop. That is until we pop into Grande Soeur.

There, a blinding white sand beach is sheltered by mammoth boulders, and sooty terns swoop overhead as we soak. Plus, the ship’s crew surprise us with a beach umbrella setup complete with pop-up bar that keeps us shaded and hydrated in between swims.

At La Digue, we stroll a winding sandy path dwarfed by granite boulders, and sooty terns swoop overhead as we soak. Plus, the ship’s crew surprise us with a beach umbrella setup complete with pop-up bar that keeps us shaded and hydrated in between swims.

On the island of Cousin, Clinton shows us around. He’s one of eight rangers stationed there year-round to help protect the white-tailed tropicbirds and giant tortoise (including 145-year-old Gandalf) that call the island home.

And at the UNESCO nature reserve of Vallée de Mai, we follow Ilyan along the pathways that wind amongst the protected co-co-de-mer palms and giggle like schoolkids at their voluptuous, bum-shaped seeds that are the heaviest in the plant kingdom. (Some are more than 80 pounds!)

If the Seychelles are the star, Aqua Lares is a strong supporting actor. Each day is a choose-your-own adventure. At sunrise, some go out for off-deck swims; others head for the yoga mats set

up on the helicopter pad. And others sleep until breakfast. If you don’t feel like leaving the ship one day, then relax in the hot tub or settle on sun loungers and watch swimmers and paddleboarders do their thing below.

The bartender can whip you up an Avontuur (Malachite Fynbos gin infused with rooibos tea and rosemary, topped with soda and fresh citrus) or Spice Route (Mamba Anejo Tequila, South African yellow curry, pineapple and yellow capsacin cordial) to sip while you watch the waves. On the lowest deck, the spa feels like it’s built for two, with a sauna, hot tub and treatment room.

There’s so much to do off-ship that when it’s time to head for home, I realize I never got a chance to sit in the 10-seat cinema or snuggle into the comfy couches surrounded by colour-coded bookshelves.

Staff go the extra mile, greeting us with cold towels and icy drinks when we return from excursions. They arrange for laundry (included in your stay) to be freshly pressed. At each day’s end, we are imbibing champagne and cocktails, while trying to name the colours (fuchsia, mandarin, lavender) that caress the clouds.

Each evening, chef Marko Sterlicchi presents dishes that appeal to the eyes as much as the palate. Jaunty napkin rings (purple urchin spikes, translucent pearls) accompany meals served on octopus-motif pottery: Scallops with a lime apple salad served in a seashell. A perfectly cold heirloom tomato gazpacho soup with crostini on a high heat day. “Zanzibar spiced” (vanilla, cumin, cloves) wagyu barbecued to perfection. Every bite fuelling conversations that create fast friendships and promises to stay in touch.

For most people, visiting the Seychelles is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Exploring on Aqua Lares with a team as invested in your experience as in their love for the place feels fitting.

Special to The Globe and Mail

Aqua Expeditions’ Aqua Lares returns to the Seychelles in November. A five-night voyage to La Digue & Seychelles’ Inner Islands departs on Nov. 23. Staterooms on the 15-suite yacht start at US\$9,270 a person, double occupancy. aquaexpeditions.com.

The writer was a guest of Aqua Expeditions, which did not review or approve this article. Stories are based on merit; The Globe does not guarantee coverage.

All the feelings, indeed: Canada’s indie darlings rock Detroit

BRAD WHEELER
CRITIC’S NOTEBOOK

It is Saturday night and the marquee of the historic Fox Theatre in downtown Motown is emblazoned with the names of three Canadian bands. Metric, Broken Social Scene and Stars are on the North American leg of their All the Feelings tour, a rolling indie-rock revue for the ages.

They are friends and associates – some of the members of Stars and Metric are quasi-members of the sprawling Broken Social Scene collective. Almost a quarter-century ago in Toronto, the three bands played the 600-capacity club Lee’s Palace together. Metric opened that show, followed by Broken Social Scene and the headlining Stars.

Now the order is flipped: It’s Metric’s tour, with Stars relegated to the opening slot. No hard feelings?

ACT I

The \$10 it cost to see the three bands at Lee’s in 2001 is a down payment on a concert T-shirt today. The 5,000-capacity Fox is about three-quarters full already when Stars walk onstage to applause. Outspoken co-lead singer Torquil Campbell rocks a Smiths shirt. If he wears his heart on his sleeve, he wears Morrissey on his chest. The Montreal-based pop band, who formed in 2000, brought their own disco ball –



The members of the three groups are friends with a shared history, but make no mistake, Metric, pictured, headlines the All the Feelings tour.

have glitter, will travel. “We do this thing where we get you elevated,” Campbell says, “but life really isn’t so great.” There’s no romantic like a cynical romantic. They start with *Hold On When You Get Love* and *Let Go When You Give It*, a passionate and danceable piece of synth-pop life advice. During *Take Me to the Riot*, part-time actor Campbell is on his knees in front of Amy Millan as they share the second verse: “You sprung me, I’m grateful / I love when you tell me not to speak.”

Later, Campbell hugs a fan he recognizes in the front row. “All the feelings, indeed,” Millan says. At one point, Campbell references a 1984 Kevin Bacon film: “This ain’t *Footloose*. You’re allowed to dance.” Some do.

ACT II

Early in Broken Social Scene’s set of blissful rock, frontman Kevin Drew addresses the current Canadian-U.S. political divide as symbolically as possible: “Sorry about the bridge,” he says, referring to the Gordie Howe International Bridge that connects the two countries.

Last week, Canada cancelled a joint ceremony to mark the structure’s opening because of Washington’s latest threat of tariffs. Drew, though, is conciliatory. “You’re the best neighbour anybody could ask for,” he tells the band’s American fans.

That’s BSS diplomacy: Speak softly and carry a big chorus.

Members of Stars and Metric participate in the set, but someone is missing. There have been

rumours that star singer Feist, a satellite member of BSS, would make an appearance on the tour. So far, she hasn’t. *Hug of Thunder*, co-written by Feist, is sung by Jill Harris: “It’s like a topography that is made from cartography of me, all those feelings ...”

Metric’s Emily Haines comes out to sing *Anthems For A Seventeen-Year-Old Girl*, a soft, wistful tune she co-wrote and recorded with BSS.

The set closes with the uplifting *Ibi Dreams of Pavement* (A Better Day), with a snippet of the Bonnie Tyler hit *Total Eclipse of the Heart* inserted. The Welsh singer died earlier this month at 75. Drew asks the audience to sing the song in tribute to her. They do.

ACT III

Though both BSS and Metric have new albums out (*Remember the Humans* and *Romanticize the Dive*, respectively), the All the Feelings tour was conceived by Metric’s Haines and guitarist Jimmy Shaw. BSS’s Drew said onstage that Metric took the financial “risk” involved with a multi-band tour.

So, while BSS only presented two songs off their latest album at the Fox, Metric opens their set with *Victim of Luck*, the new LP’s synth-driven, mid-tempo first track.

The song looks back on the band’s youthful prestardom (“I was a starving artist, but I was fearless”) while questioning success.

It wasn’t luck that brought the band that was third on the bill in 2001 to headlining status today. The members of the three groups are friends with a shared history, but make no mistake, Metric headlines the All the Feelings concerts.

Their set is longer, their sound is louder – the kick drum and bass loosen tooth fillings – and the production value is higher. Metric’s sleek, brooding electronic rock sharply contrasts against the heartfelt college-radio sounds and cinematic aesthetic of BSS and Stars.

Metric opens a short encore set with 2008’s *Help I’m Alive*, a song about the weight of heightened expectations. “If I stumble,” Haines sings, “they’re gonna eat me alive.” She’s a cool-headed and magnetic performer – consummate.

There are three bands and about 20 musicians on this tour, but it takes a rock star to pull off a show like this. Haines, who has always known the assignment, is the only one of the bunch.

EPILOGUE

Before Metric took the stage, a song by the Velvet Underground blared over the PA system. It was *We’re Gonna Have a Real Good Time Together*. Consider the promise kept.

All the Feelings tour: Aug. 7, RBC Amphitheatre, Toronto; Oct. 3, Canada Life Place, London, Ont.; Oct. 5, TD Place, Ottawa; Oct. 7, Place Bell, Laval, Que.