

## Stuffed turtle is no souvenir

I am writing this letter for some friends of mine who can't take pen to flipper or, for that matter, speak up for themselves.

Winter's sliding into home. Soon many Canadians will hop a plane and head south. Favorite destinations include the Caribbean and Mexico. Part of the typical vacation includes fussing over what makes a good souvenir.

The U.S. government continues to be world leader in the protection of marine sea turtles. At the present time, no species of marine turtle is considered "safe" from extinction.

The most gentle of all marine turtles are the Greens. Ever since 1989, I have had the privilege to live with these wondrous creatures. They ask only for open ocean and to be left in peace. No one knows the natural life span of a sea turtle but it is agreed they can reach great age if undisturbed by man.

Instead, many suffer prolonged, gruesome deaths and since you are reading this with Sunday breakfast, I will spare you the details. One of the most senseless reasons for them to die, however, is to become a souvenir for some vacationer from the North.

Ursula Keuper-Bennett  
Mississauga