



## Cyclist, 70, ends cross-Canada trek

### HALIFAX

By Sarah Regan – The Daily News

**W**hy would a 70-year-old man ride his bike across Canada? Because he can.

Forty-one days ago, Albert Martz stood on the coast of Vancouver and dreamed about what it would be like to dip his feet in the ocean on the opposite side of the country. He jumped on his bike, headed east, and didn't look back — until yesterday.

"Once I get an idea in my head, it's hard for me to get it out," said Martz, a German-Canadian living in St. Catharines, Ont.

Except for the three squint marks 41 days in the sun has left on either side of his eyes, you would never guess this grandfather of four just biked 6,875 kilometres straight across Canada. He arrived in Halifax on Saturday evening a little sunburned, a bit tired, but very excited.

For Martz, a retired business man, biking from one coast to the other was more of a personal goal



DARREN CALABRESE

**COLD FEET:** Albert Martz steps in the Atlantic in Halifax yesterday.

than anything else. He said appreciating the freedom this country offers is a simple reason to take on such a feat, but a good one.

"Some dreams come true, some don't," he said. "Some people climb

mountains because they're there, some don't."

Martz's wife Elizabeth and his son-in-law Albert Perez said they were not one bit surprised when Martz told them he planned on riding across the country. In fact, they expected him to come up with an idea like this sooner or later.

"It's just his nature," said Elizabeth Martz yesterday during a phone call from her home in St. Catharines. "He's not one for sitting around."

There have been some highs and lows during Martz's journey.

He said the lowest point was the stretch of road between Thunder Bay and Schreiber, Ont., when his knee gave out and nearly forced him to call his family to pick him up.

The best moment of the trip came Saturday at 4 p.m., when he hit Halifax.

"I made it," he said. "I think Halifax is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen."

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