

# Grande

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On a chance, the couple called Grande Coastal from Ontario and discovered there was a lot in the development that fit in their price range.

The Aikens came east once again, looked at some home plans and viewed a Grande Coastal home in Bedford similar to the one they wanted.

"The framing was impeccable," says Steve Aiken. "Basically, they had us at hello."

The couple chose "The Digby," one of several home styles offered by Grande Coastal. The home features 2,344 sq. ft. of living space, an attached double car garage, nine foot ceilings, wide mouldings, an open, gourmet kitchen with breakfast nook and a unique stone exterior with beautiful roof lines.

A mere day and a half was spent choosing all the colours, countertops, flooring and fixtures with the help of Grande Coastal's professional decorator, Cathie Brookfield.

Interestingly enough, the real work didn't begin until the Aiken's were back in Ontario. The couple found the Grande Coastal team so accommodating they trusted them to build their dream home without being there.

"We even made changes to the plan as we went along," says Aiken. "We added things like a skylight and sent pictures and sketches of what we thought would work. We tweaked the home through e-mails."

In return, Grande Coastal general manager Karel Solnicka sent the Aikens photos of the process, beginning with the pouring of the foundation last November.

"The last week or two of building they didn't send us any photos. They wanted to surprise us," says Jennifer Aiken.

On June 29 the Aikens moved in. Having left a vacant lot little more than six months earlier, the family came "home" to their dream house.

The result of this long-distance build is a five bedroom, two storey home with an office and a finished basement. The second floor was originally a master and bonus room, however the Aiken's altered the design.

The bonus room became the master, and the master an office and extra bedroom. In turn, what was originally a formal dining room became a music room.

Grande Coastal Homes, the recipient of the Nova Scotia Home Builders' award for Most Outstanding Home for 2006, was more than happy to meet the Aiken's expectations and even exceed them.

"Karel (Coastal's general manager) is true old school quality," says Jennifer Aiken.

"He put as much attention to detail into our home as he would his own."



The powder room.

Grande Coastal Homes only builds a dozen homes a year, at the most. This allows the general manager to be at every job site, every day.

"Now our Christmas decorations are up and we are preparing for our first Maritime Christmas in our new home," says Aiken. "Grande Coastal put us at ease from the get go — first class the whole way. We never thought having a home built from such a distance would be possible, but they made what could have been a stressful project not only easy, but fun!"



The master bedroom.



The master ensuite.

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