

## Carleton Place's Brody Rawding competes at Abu Dhabi Pro Jiu Jitsu Championship

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EMC News – Carleton Place council provided a warm send-off to Brody Rawding April 2, prior to the physical environment committee meeting.

"He is heading over to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – to Abu Dhabi – to take part in the world championships for jiu jitsu," said mayor Wendy LeBlanc.

The Abu Dhabi Pro Jiu Jitsu Championship, which takes place this week (April 10 to 13), attracts world attention.

Athletes from approximately 50 countries are taking part.

Joining Brody in the municipality's council chambers were his parents, Brian and Christina Rawding, and his coach, Michael Tremblay.

Brian and Christina own and operate local business Mississippi Flooring.

Introducing the teen, LeBlanc said, "It is really quite wonderful to hear about this almost meteoric rise to the level where he is right now."

Brody, a member of Alpha Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) in Carleton Place, won the recent Abu Dhabi World Professional Jiu-Jitsu Trials in February, and he is also a top athlete in the Carleton Place Canoe Club.

"It sounds like you are an all-around athlete, Brody," said LeBlanc, "and I am told you are a very positive role model for young people – not just in the canoe club but

throughout the community."

Only 18-years-old, he joined Alpha MMA one year ago, working extremely hard to get where he is today.

LeBlanc said Brody is the Ottawa BJJ Open Champion, and the only Canadian or American of his experience level to qualify for the world championships at the North American Trials in Montreal.

His coach Michael has helped Brody achieve success.

"All members of Alpha MMA work together as a family, offering complete support and encouragement to each other," said LeBlanc.

"Growing up I've always been physical," said Brody, "and one day I decided to try it (jiu jitsu) out."

He loved it.

Michael went to Abu Dhabi last year.

His sister (Alison) went the last two years. As a coach, this experience (tournament and level of competition) will greatly benefit Brody.

Michael and Alison's father, Peter Tremblay is the owner and head instructor at Alpha MMA.

He has been coaching jiu jitsu locally since 1997.

"This is something I've been doing my whole life," said Michael.

He called Brody an exceptional athlete, talented and extremely coachable.

"This is probably something he learned through involvement with the canoe club," he continued.

"It's part of his character."  
"For Brody to achieve what he



Photo by TARA GESNER and submitted  
Mayor Wendy LeBlanc congratulated 18-year-old Carleton Place resident Brody Rawding, April 2, before he jetted off to the United Arab Emirates to compete in the Abu Dhabi Pro Jiu Jitsu Championship. Rawding qualified to compete by winning the North American Trials in February, in Montreal.



has achieved in such a short period of time is pretty incredible!" said Peter in a media release.

"His commitment, willingness to learn and work ethic have paid off.

I think Brody is going to surprise a lot of people in Abu Dhabi.

I actually think he is going to win this!"

There are a number of qualifying events around the globe (Africa, Brazil and Egypt, for example) leading up to the world championships.

"If you win the trials you get an all expenses paid trip – flight, hotel, meals and entry fee," said Michael.

In addition, a large number of people from the Middle East who didn't win the trials will be there.

Brody's parents will not be attending the event; however, they will follow it online.

Unfortunately, the competition is not televised.

"On behalf of council, best wishes," said LeBlanc. "We will be cheering for you – and really anxious to hear how you make out."

The mayor presented Brody with a bag containing a Carleton Place T-shirt and pins to be given out to other competitors.

The first UAE Abu Dhabi Pro Jiu Jitsu Championship took place in April of 2009.

It was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.