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Haunted Overload Spooky Halloween fun for a cause

Thursday, October 26, 2006

Haunted Overload is a haunted attraction created by Eric Lowther of Exeter. Each year, Lowther enlists the help of friends, family, neighbors and volunteers to dress his home and yard as a haunted Halloween walk-through.

In lieu of admission, donations are accepted from Oct. 17 to Oct. 31 every year. 50 percent of the total collected is donated to the NHSPCA in Stratham.

The other 50 percent goes for the following year's "haunting budget." Since 2003, the event has donated \$5,550 to the NHSPCA.

Lowther's display and walk-through, which takes about a month to construct, are usually not completed until about a week before Halloween. While the public is welcome to stroll through the display at any time, a grand finale is staged each year on Oct. 30 and 31, beginning at dusk.

The finale includes illumination of approximately 150 jack-o-lanterns, costumed actors, and a roving



The head of the 30-foot scarecrow is made of chicken wire and spray foam. The head

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...jack o lanterns, costumed actors, and a roving "chainsaw guy." Sound effects and fog machines work overtime to lend an authentic air to the evenings' festivities.

Lowther's display received national attention in USA Today on Oct. 12, when the newspaper reported that Haunted Overload had been given the title of "the nation's 12th best Halloween display" in an online survey by hauntworld.com.

Lowther's display is the only New England location on the list.

To visit Haunted Overload, head into downtown Exeter. From Water Street (Route 27), look for Lincoln Street. Haunted Overload is located at 28 Garfield St., which is just off of Lincoln.

For more information, including directions, visit www.hauntedoverload.com.

wire and spray foam. The head is carved by hand with a wood rasp and coated with "liquid nails" for durability. (Dan Plumpton, Inner Child Studio/Courtesy photo)

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