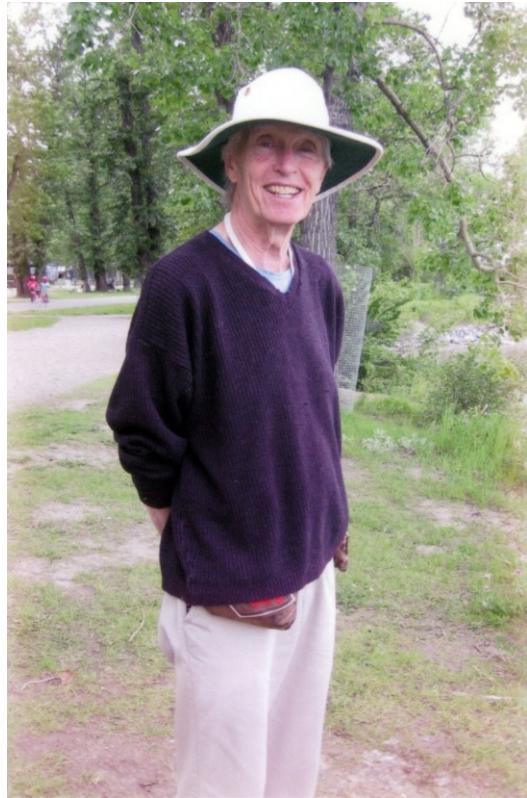




Thumbs Up!

Alan, tamping grass seed with an old pair of skis in 2019. Who else would come up with this idea?



Alan in Baker Park
...One of his common walking haunts.

Alan Gordon Herron

July 4th, 1941
to
April 2nd, 2024

Introductory Information About Alan Herron Relevant to Comment on the Movie "Switch"

Prepared by Alan, March 2014

Academic and Professional Experience

- B. Sc. In Electrical Power Engineering From University of Alberta, 1964
- summer job experience with Calgary Power (now TransAlta) on construction crews, helped build two substations. I was responsible for the surveying for one of the substation layouts in my final summer job with them.
- M. Sc. In Electrical Power Engineering From University of Alberta, 1966. The thesis topic related to heating the ground with buried electrodes, with much the same motive as that of the present SAGD process for bitumen extraction in the oil sands today.
- worked as a system planning engineer with Calgary Power until 1968. Responsibility included analog and computer simulation of the company electrical network, and projections of system requirements to facilitate transmission and generation development. It is this experience that gives me the "inside" perspective on tonight's movie.
- Ph. D. In Electrical Power Engineering From University of Calgary, 1972 My thesis topic related to technical issues involved in modelling large scale electrical equipment.
- worked for Etron Industries Ltd in industrial electronics, designing and installing sound systems at several major venues around the city.
- founded and ran Herron Consulting for about 20 years, writing custom engineering software. My programs have been used for provincial water management by the Alberta government, oil drilling simulation in the Arctic (defence of oil platforms from icebergs), design of nozzles on skid mounted natural gas processing equipment, and university scholarship database design and management. All of these have a strong "systems viewpoint" requirement.
- I now have been retired for several years.

Personal Interests

- Personal interests over the years have included hiking, skiing (downhill and cross country), flying (fixed wing, gliders, and helicopters), sailing, and performing popular music. I played piano with a small dance band, and with the Saturday Night Special house band for a few years, and performed with them on a side stage at the Calgary Folk Festival.
- My companion, Tannis Ewing, and I have shared a decades long and continuing interest in philosophy. I am especially interested in the theory of knowledge (epistemology) and its application to current practical problems, including environmental issues. For anyone interested, both Tannis and I have posted several items on my website www.greatblue.ca intended for public consumption.

Volunteer Work

- treasurer of the Glenmore Yacht Club
- president of the Calgary Hyperion (computer) User's Group
- 10 years with the Calgary Folk Festival setting up and dismantling the festival site
- another 10 years with Expo Latino doing the same thing

Who was Al Herron?

He was a gentle, kind man who believed that rules were made to be followed, that reality was not subjective, that learning to think well was important, that one of the great gifts of life was to learn how to use both your body and your mind as efficaciously as you could...



He once remarked that he was too much an engineer to be a good mathematician, and too much a mathematician to be a good engineer. But he was more than either of those things. He was a philosopher with an inherent understanding of the way the world of nature and of people actually worked. In spite of his wisdom, he never slowed down in his efforts to understand the world even better.

May the ashes of his being, soar with the wind and the eagles of the air. That would be where he would want to be found...